

Firemen's 'spy unit' shut despite saving millions



Clarkson: unit 'better than private agents'

By DOUGLAS BROOM
AN UNDERCOVER unit which exposed a multi-million pound fraud by London firemen, involving bogus or inflated injury compensation claims, has been wound up despite protests from the chief fire officer.
Enquiries by *The Times* have established that the unit was effectively disbanded in March even though it had saved the London Fire and Civil Defence Authority almost £2.2 million in three years. The decision was taken in spite of commendations of its work by the Audit Commission and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Fire Services.
The fire authority is made up of councillors nominated by the 32 London boroughs: 15 Labour, 13

Conservative, four Liberal Democrats and one independent. It was they who decided to disband the investigation unit against the advice of the chief fire officer, Gerald Clarkson, who argued that using fire officers to look into bogus or exaggerated claims had proved more effective than hiring private investigators.
The authority voted to postpone indefinitely consideration of the unit's future. Officers who left its ranks were not replaced and the last member left last year. No explanation has been given for the unit's demise.
Cameron Geddes, Labour chairman of the authority's personnel committee, said that the unit had been disbanded. "It was a matter of principle that we did not feel it was

any part of a fire fighter's function to spy on fellow fire fighters." He disputed the savings, saying those were based on estimates of the total value of claims lodged. Lawyers claimed "at the top of the scale" for a particular injury and more than half of all personal injury cases ended in the award of a lower figure without any imputation of fraud.
The unit, known as the Special Projects Group, was set up in July 1986 by senior officers. Protests by the Fire Brigades Union led to its existence being brought to the attention of the authority. An attempt to regularise its position by seeking authority from the policy and resources committee for its continued existence failed in March 1989 and the unit was

gradually run down. Official documents show that 432 cases involving claims totalling more than £30 million were referred to the unit for investigation between July 1986 and its demise earlier this year. The unit fully investigated 37 of those and discovered only one to be entirely well-founded. The claims in these cases were cut from a total £3 million to £800,000.
The unit's existence was referred to in this year's annual report of the Audit Commission. Howard Davies, controller of the commission, said: "Our report attempted to alert local authorities to the problem of fraud and draw attention to good practice. This investigation unit struck us as being an example of such good practice." Mr Clarkson said: "I was instrumental,

as the then deputy chief officer, in setting up the unit. I did so having spoken to the district auditor and having discussed it with the former chief officer. We advised the union, the members, the Metropolitan Police and Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Fire Services. I thought it was the proper thing to do given the rate of claims we were receiving, some of which we had reason to believe were doubtful. Clearly it had to be done professionally. It does not sit well with the British public which does not like things which smack of a police state and snooping. However the unit was very effective."
In a formal report on the unit, debated by members of the authority in March 1989 Mr Clarkson said that the unit was "consid-

erably more effective than private enquiry agents who charge from £250 a day and have proved less able to produce evidence. It is from the work of the unit, rather than enquiry agents, that the largest reductions in damages have been achieved."
"Investigatory and surveillance work has not been undertaken lightly and it is known that it does not sit easily with most members and officers. However the authority is facing significant numbers of claims which at best are exaggerated and at worst fraudulent. The unpleasant facts of surveillance must therefore be weighed against the potential future loss to the ratepayer."

The Secret Squirrels, page 5

Heath secures Saddam pledge to free hostages

FROM NICHOLAS BEESTON IN BAGHDAD

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein of Iraq yesterday promised to release possibly scores of British hostages in Iraq and Kuwait, Edward Heath, the former prime minister, said.

Speaking after three hours of talks with the Iraqi leader, Mr Heath said that details of the release would be disclosed today and that he planned to return home with the freed Britons tomorrow.

Although the release is unconditional, the former prime minister's very presence at the presidential palace in Baghdad was regarded as a propaganda coup by the Iraqi leadership, which has been isolated since it invaded Kuwait in August.

Mr Heath said that he believed not enough efforts were being made on the diplomatic front to find a peaceful solution, a view which will anger Mrs

Thatcher. She is determined that no talks can be held with Iraq until its forces are withdrawn from Kuwait.

Iraqi television led its evening news with the meeting, showing a smiling President Saddam, wearing a dark business suit, instead of his customary green military uniform, shaking hands with Mr Heath, who was described by the newscaster as "his excellency", a title normally reserved for the Iraqi leader.

The news went on to show demonstrations in the US, France and the Soviet Union against the Western military build-up in the Gulf, but devoted the longest time to this weekend's poll tax demonstrations in London.

There are about 1,350 British in Iraq and Kuwait. Some 300 are being detained as human shields at some 30 strategic sites across the country, about 600 are still in hiding in Kuwait and about 450 are in Iraq having been refused exit visas.

director of the Common Cold and Nasal Research Centre at the University of Wales in Cardiff, who suffers from rheumatoid arthritis. "I am hopeful but not celebrating yet. If Mr Heath gets anybody out it will be wonderful."

Margaret Wilbraham from Blackpool, whose husband Tony has lung cancer and has been given 18 months to live, said she feared last-minute changes by the Iraqis.

"We have been hopeful in the past only to see our chances of leaving disappear, and I will only be satisfied once my husband and I are on the plane," she said.

At a news conference in Baghdad, Mr Heath avoided any outright criticism of the Baghdad regime, but said that during President Saddam had given no indication of compromise on his annexation of Kuwait.

Mr Heath did not criticise Iraq for its invasion of Kuwait or the alleged atrocities of the Iraqi occupation forces. Although he refused to be drawn on his impressions of President Saddam he said that he was very impressed with the Iraqi leadership's detailed knowledge of world affairs, a possible reference to Tariq Aziz, the foreign minister.

The former prime minister emphasised the need for dialogue and diplomacy to counter the threat of war and appeared to be reinforcing moves by France and the Soviet Union for a compromise solution.

"I hope that the British will respond to the view that we should do everything possible through diplomatic means to find a solution," he said.

● LONDON: Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said that making any concession to President Saddam to withdraw from Kuwait would be "very dangerous for the future."

It was important that the alliance "holds firm" on Iraq withdrawing unconditionally from Kuwait, he said on the BBC radio programme "The World This Weekend".

Israel alert, page 10

Nadir flies to Cyprus

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

ASIL Nadir, head of Polly Peck International, has flown to Northern Cyprus in an attempt to gain access to funds from the island's banks to save his firm, trading and electronics group from collapse.

PPI is threatened with administration by a group of

100 short-term lenders who are expected to demand repayment of £50 million, which the company cannot afford. The lenders will meet company executives today or tomorrow.

Full report, page 23



Face-to-face: Mr Heath negotiating for the freedom of British hostages with President Saddam Hussein in Baghdad's presidential palace yesterday

Ministers face fight on public sector pay claim

By RICHARD FORD AND KEVIN EASON

THE government faces a pay battle with tens of thousands of public sector workers after signalling last night that it will resist demands to match above-inflation wage increases in private companies.

Unions are using the rise of 12 per cent and over won by staff at companies like Jaguar and Ford as their benchmark for the winter pay round. That is based on inflation of about 10.9 per cent. The government says, however, that an underlying inflation rate of 7 per cent, which excludes the poll

tax and mortgage repayments, would be a more appropriate basis for negotiations.

Ministers last night stressed that there was no pay ceiling but in recent weeks have clamoured for restraint as wage deals have run into double figures in leading industrial companies.

The government's determination to keep public sector wage increases below price rises is shown in its evidence to the review body which recommends pay rises for nurses, midwives and health

visitors. It says that the better measure for inflation is the 7 per cent underlying rate and that it does "not consider that substantial across the board rises would be appropriate". It also asks the review body to take account of the knock on effect of its proposals on other wage negotiations.

Defending the government's tough stance towards pay for health service workers, Michael Howard, the employment secretary, said: "That is an area where it is necessary to give a particular guide. In that area too the principle of cash limited budgets applies."

In an interview on BBC 1's *On the Record*, Mr Howard added: "If excessive wage increases are awarded, the consequence will be unemployment. That is a cardinal message."

The scale of the government's task in trying to persuade people to moderate wage demands is shown by an opinion poll published today. In spite of 11 years of ministerial exhortation on the need to defeat inflation, four out of ten people said it did not really matter if inflation was high, as long as wages rose at the same rate.

The Mori poll also found that 77 per cent expected inflation to be higher than five per cent for at least the next five years and that 82 per cent thought prices would rise no matter what the government

Continued on page 22, col 5

Beirut warlord and family murdered

FROM JUAN CARLOS GUMUCIO IN BAABDA, LEBANON

GUNMEN dressed in military fatigues and armed with silenced automatic pistols yesterday assassinated a member of one of Lebanon's great warlord clans and a leading supporter of General Michel Aoun and his family in a Christian suburb of Beirut.

The killing of Dany Chamoun, his wife and two young sons raised fears of more violence one week after the defeat of General Aoun planted hopes for a settlement in Lebanon.

Mr Chamoun, the 56-year-old son of the late president Camille Chamoun, was the

leader of the National Liberal Party whose staunch opposition to Syria's involvement in Lebanon and his old links with Israel made him numerous enemies among pro-Damascus forces in Lebanon.

But his challenge to the Christian "Lebanese Forces" militia also proved very dangerous since July 7, 1980, when he escaped an attempt on his life during a bloody Phalangist assault on his party strongholds in the coastal town of Safra, north of Beirut.

Continued on page 22, col 1

Christians warned, page 10

Leading article, page 15

Obituary, page 16

Continued on page 22, col 5

'Take government to court' councils told

By OUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

COUNCILS are being advised to take the government to court if spending limits lead to more cuts in education spending, according to a confidential letter from Stephen Byers, the leader of the Labour-controlled Association of Metropolitan Authorities.

The letter tells the education authorities to go to the High Court if charge-capping and spending limits prevent spending on the improvement of schools. Mr Byers has told

authorities, including those in Greater London, Merseyside, Greater Manchester, West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, Tyne and Wear and the West Midlands, that the extra £700 million John MacGregor, education secretary, has won from the Treasury will not be enough if spending cuts prevent local authorities from also using their own funds.

Capping fear, page 7

Education, page 30, 31

Cuts follow capping

An investigation by *The Times* of councils that have had their local authority grants capped, has revealed sweeping cuts, many affecting the elderly and disabled. They mean fewer libraries and museums, higher charges for swimming pools and sports centres, higher bus fares and fewer grants for voluntary agencies.

Page 7

Police check

A national survey every three months of public satisfaction with police work is being proposed by the Home Office, chief constables and the police inspectorate.

Page 5

Israel stabbings

A Palestinian Muslim fundamentalist, aged 19, stabbed three Israelis to death in Jerusalem and police believed he may have been trying to avenge the Temple Mount killings.

Page 10

Mahathir win

Mahathir Mohamad, prime minister of Malaysia, has won a third term with a simple majority in the country's parliamentary election.

Page 13

Treasury errors

The Treasury's "economic model" of the British economy consistently underestimated inflation during the second half of the 1980s and also made wrong predictions about trade figures, the Treasury has admitted.

Page 23

Senna's title

Ayrton Senna captured the Formula One championship as controversy once again plagued the Japanese grand prix. In a near repeat of last year, Senna and Prost tangled at the first bend, forcing both out of the race.

Carbon-copy crash reopens motor racing feud

FROM JOE JOSEPH IN TOKYO

IN AN uneasy re-run of last year's Japanese Grand Prix, the world motor-racing championship was decided yesterday by a crash at Suzuka between the Brazilian driver, Ayrton Senna and the Frenchman, Alain Prost, thus reviving the bitter feud between the two.

The crashes were almost identical, but the outcome the opposite. In both Senna drove into Prost, trying to force his way through at a corner. Last year's incident left Senna disqualified and Prost the champion for the third time. This year's, which occurred at the first corner, presented Senna with his second title and left Prost too far behind on championship points to overtake him in the one remaining race.

The two drivers had ended an 18-month silence with a much-trumpeted reconciliation at Monza last month. Now they have reverted to their old bruising ways. Prost yesterday called Senna's behaviour "disgusting".

"He has completely destroyed everything again," said Prost. "I hope that everyone can see he has not been honest ... I thought he was one of the human race and fair on the track. But he was not. He just did not brake and he did it on purpose. With Senna, Formula-One has become a real war. He is ready to risk death for the title." After securing the pole position on Saturday, Senna had prophesied: "I'm sure I'll have the second championship of my career, maybe before the race finishes tomorrow."

Yesterday he claimed that the track officials were partly to blame because they had refused his request for the pole position to be switched to the outside, which would have given him a clearer

line to the first corner. "We got to the corner very close together. There was a gap. I went for the gap. He unfortunately closed the door and I could not avoid the collision ... He knows I always go for a gap. As usual, he has his point of view. But he has tried to destroy me and he will not. I know what I can do and I don't give a damn what he says."

After careering into Prost at Suzuka last year, Senna said: "That was the only place where I could overtake and somebody who should not have been there just closed the door and that was that." Prost, as prophetic as his tormentor, complained of Senna at the time: "He is driving too hard. If you have two drivers like us then there will be a crash every time."

For the record, the race was won by Senna's team-mate, Nelson Piquet.

Race report, page 38

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INDEX	
Arts	19
Births, marriages, deaths	15, 17
Business	23-27
Court & social	16
Crosswords	17, 22
Education	30, 31
Law Report	32
Leading articles	15
Letters	18
Obituary	33-38
Sport	21
TV & Radio	21
Weather	22

Britain's entry to ERM stymies Labour's line on Europe

ON EUROPE, Labour's fox has been shot. Until the chancellor's dramatic move on the eve of the Conservative conference, what differentiated Labour and Conservative approaches to the European Community was the Labour party's open enthusiasm for joining the exchange-rate mechanism of the European monetary system.

That was, however, on conditions that included an EC commitment to growth, a strengthening of regional support and special collaboration between EC central banks "to combat speculation and take account of the fact that sterling is a heavily traded international currency", as the party's policy document, *Looking to the Future*, says.

Labour's turnaround on the EC is one of the more remarkable features of the party's transformation. It used to deride the common market as a capitalist club and, for the 1983 election, pledged Britain's withdrawal. Neil Kinnock said

then that he "wanted out" of the EC, but he became convinced that Britain's future lay in Europe before becoming party leader later that year and has since worked to bring his party round.

He has made clear in interviews, however, that he is not enamoured of any federalist Europe or closer economic and monetary union that would restrict the budget-making capacities of British governments. Labour, too, is opposed to the single European currency and an independent European central bank.

With Britain now in the ERM, however, it will be hard for Labour to present to electors a distinctive line on the EC that buttresses the party's claim to be more wholeheartedly European than the Tories. Party spokesmen are now edging across to a softer line on the single currency and the central bank. Last week, Chris Smith, a shadow treasury spokesman, said that Labour

did not have any hard and fast lines against a central bank if it was democratically accountable.

So what else is distinctive in Labour's approach? George Robertson, the party's front bench spokesman on Europe, says that Labour would improve democratic accountability in Europe by giving the European parliament powers (at present restricted to the commission) to institute legislation as well as to comment on proposals by the commission and the Council of Ministers. The party would wish to see the European parliament given the right to a

"second reading" on decisions by the Council of Ministers on social and environmental matters, as well as on single European market proposals, so complementing (not replacing) the work of national parliaments.

On Community enlargement, Mr Robertson says: "We mean it, Mrs Thatcher doesn't." Labour would support Austria's application for EC membership and any further applications from EFTA countries, as well as those from eastern European states as they became democratic market economies. There is a sharp difference of

emphasis with the present government on regional support. Labour wants the creation of the single European market balanced by what Mr Robertson calls "reasonably ambitious" measures of regional support for countries on the periphery, such as Scotland and Denmark.

Mr Robertson chairs a Labour front bench committee which is presently examining problems and priorities for the second half of 1992, when Britain has the chance to set the European agenda during its next six month term in the EC presidency. At the moment, it is looking at ways in which Britain's experience in regional policy and health and safety legislation can lead to development of the social charter and regional policies.

Mr Robertson says that Labour is happy to accept the social charter, which is being resisted all the way by the Thatcher government, and the leg-

islative programme required to implement its measures. The party is prepared to sacrifice its long-maintained devotion to the closed shop "in order to get the good bits".

The differences between the parties are clear enough, then. What we do not see at the moment are the differences within the Labour party on Europe. Some 80 Labour MPs are technically still members of the Labour common market safeguards committee, a rallying point for Euro-sceptics. They include nine members of Mr Kinnock's shadow cabinet.

The party's switch in European policy has been dictated more by electoral necessity than universal overnight conversion. In government, Labour would be split between Euro-fanatics, Euro-sceptics and a large body of mainstreamers bumbling along at a pace too slow to suit Mr Delors and most of Britain's EC partners.

Consumers' panel wins access to food talks

By DAVID YOUNG

THE new Consumer Food Panel has won concessions that will allow its members access to previously secret government committees.

Panel members, who met last week in Norwich and who were told instantly of the discovery by government food specialists that vitamin A could be harmful to pregnant women, are likely to be invited to sit in on confidential observers on special committees that study pesticides, veterinary products and novel food.

The panel was set up by the agriculture, food and fisheries ministry after criticism of its handling of past food scandals, such as the outbreaks of listeria in soft cheese and salmonella in eggs, and worries about bovine spongiform encephalopathy, "mad cow disease", as well as protests against food irradiation and chemical sprays.

The concession comes in the wake of pressure from members, notably Suzi Leather, the representative of the National Consumer Council. She suggested that the panel could be in danger of becoming nothing more than a public relations exercise or an impotent talking shop. Mrs Leather is now convinced that progress is being made. "We were told of the vitamin A

issue as soon as the agriculture ministry were made aware of the findings of its specialists. That would have been unthinkable before.

"It now seems that some of our suggestions are being listened to and there is much more openness between the panel and agriculture ministry officials."

The panel wants to set up a register of the interests of those sitting on all special government advisory committees but that can be done only after talks with all other government departments.

It is also working to tighten the rules on what is meant by "commercial confidentiality" so that food producers can no longer use the blanket term to refuse to give information which affects consumers.

The panel was designed to be powerful enough to change government policy. It has nine members chosen by consumer protection groups and has a say in future food policies such as irradiation and chemical pesticides.

Members are able to complain directly to the government about problems in the shops. The panel was set up by John Gummer, the agriculture minister, who sought to avoid the problems faced by his luckless predecessor over food contamination controversies.



Catwalking: a model displays the latest designs from Lacroix in Paris yesterday. The designer has simplified his style and softened his curly cut

Lacroix mellows his bright ideas

By LIZ SMITH, FASHION EDITOR

CHRISTIAN Lacroix, the designer who lit up Paris fashion with his love of bright colours and clash of vibrant prints, is taming down his ideas.

Now that the rest of the fashion business is following his lead, with strident colour and print served up at every show over the weekend, the trendsetting designer has simplified his style and softened the carry cut that is his trademark.

At his show yesterday, held in his colourful couture house in the Faubourg St Honore, he paraded both his ready-to-wear line and the more expensive Lacroix luxe collection. In both the Lacroix lines one senses his need to prove that he can make simple, wearable clothes.

"I am tired of gimmicks," he said. The proportions are simpler and new.

It is a sensible reaction to the world of fashion in retailing. In the three years since he established his fashion house, M. Lacroix has often faced adverse reaction to his extravaganzas and clashes of colour. The first Lacroix fragrance line was launched earlier this year.

Called *C'est la Vie*, its lack of lack of success can be shrugged off in the carefree spirit of its name. That is life in the fashion business today and it faces hard times.

The new streamlined Lacroix line includes a group of simple silk crepe dresses draped over lace underskirts and a group of suits in one solid colour, albeit bright. There are longer blazers to wear over short dresses as well as his favourite low-scooped jackets ripped at the waist.

But his electric sense of colour is not tamed, with fuchsia pink mixed with red and mauve, lime and brown ending up in the one outfit.

One group of prints is called *Hommage to the Marquis*, dedicated to the maestro of pattern, who is presently enjoying a revival, the florid marchese Emilio Pucci.

Child benefit 'to be frozen next year'

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CHILD benefit is expected to be frozen next year for the fourth year in succession.

Tony Newton, the social security secretary, fought in the annual public spending round for an increase in the benefit which is at present £7.25p a week per child. However, the Treasury ruled out an increase because it had already added £2 billion to Mr Newton's departmental budget.

Opposition MPs and some Conservative backbenchers will attack the decision when Mr Newton makes his announcement during a Commons statement this week in which he will give details of increases in a range of benefits including family credit and housing benefit.

Robin Squire, Conservative MP for Hornchurch, said yesterday that the decision not to uprate child benefit, which at present costs £4.5 billion a year, was a mistake. "It goes to the heart of what we mean by assistance for the family. We ought to be recognising that people with children need some assistance, not to be treated exactly as those without children."

However, Mr Newton's £52.8 billion departmental budget faces a large bill next April to meet the automatic uprating of many social security benefits linked to last month's inflation rate of 10.9 per cent.

The last Conservative election manifesto promised to maintain child benefit, but its future is the subject of debate within the party as ministers and MPs consider alternatives for inclusion in the party's next manifesto.

Those who support continuation of the benefit have argued that it should be central to the government's family policy and that it is the one benefit that goes direct to the mother. Critics have argued that it gives money to rich as well as poor families but have been unable to produce a feasible way of directing it at those families most in need of

the money. Others have suggested the return of child tax allowances, a scheme believed to have attracted Mrs Thatcher's attention, but which the Treasury says would be too expensive.

Others have argued for a two tier system with an increase in benefit for families with children under five while leaving it frozen for others. Critics say that that proposal is over simplistic and it could be argued that it is when children are over five that families most need help.

Fran Bennett, director of the Child Poverty Action group, said yesterday that if child benefit is frozen for a fourth year, families with children will see through the government's fine words about family policy.

Peaceful protests by disabled

By RUTH GLEDHILL

THOUSANDS of disabled people protested peacefully against disability benefits this weekend. Fears of disruption by militants at three meetings in Glasgow, Manchester and London were not realised.

Problems with access and transport kept many more away. Physical problems included the wheelchair ramp into Trafalgar Square which took people into an area cut off by a barrier.

The Disability Benefits Consortium, the umbrella group for disability organisations, arranged the rallies. More than 5,000 people turned out in the largest day of action taken to date by disabled people, the organisers said. The consortium is to meet later this week to look at a "rolling programme of action" to campaign for a comprehensive disability payment.

from The Mouth of The Lout.



YOB OPPORTUNITIES.

Though we should most vehemently deny sordid accusations of jollism, there are, we must confess, certain professional personnel with whom we would not wish Aberlour Single Malt Whisky to associate itself. Politicians, primarily, players of association football, double-glazing salesmen, estate agents, but, pre-eminent amongst all these, those alien beings who inhabit the pink-tinted world of advertising and marketing.

Only the other day, the Aberlour Distillery was compelled to brace itself for a visitation from two of these august gentlemen, the one glorying in the title of copywriter, the other to that of art director.

Fortunately, our distillery manager, Mr. Ian Mitchell, forty years in harness at Aberlour itself following father and grandfather before him, had espied them in the nick of time from his eyrie overlooking the distillery gates and secreted his prize bottles of Aberlour well out of the sight of prying eyes. And with good reason. For one of these fellows had had the temerity to enter the sacred temenos sporting a well-groomed ponytail and was, therefore, naturally assumed to be female, while his companion was hedecked in what can only be described as a pair of welder's goggles, presumably to protect his failing eyesight from the ferocious glare of his cerise and peppermint velvet suit. As any connoisseur will doubtless be aware, Aberlour is matured in a mixture of the finest sherry and bourbon casks. So, for emergencies of this nature, Mr. Mitchell keeps a bottle of cheap sweet sherry on the side and, needless to say, this brace of preening peacocks were each offered a glass and sent swiftly on their way.

ABERLOUR

10 YEARS OLD SINGLE SPEYSIDE MALT

£70m town centre plan approved

By RONALD FAUX

THE environment department has given consent for a £70 million redevelopment in Lancaster, ending months of uncertainty over the future of the city centre.

A swathe of gap sites, ucherised 1960s development and a fire-damaged market hall are to go, to be replaced by buildings designed to blend with Lancaster's Georgian architecture and to transform the heart of the historic county town.

Since the scheme was chosen uncertainty over planning approval has given way to questions about the power of the high street to produce a return to justify the investment. Lancaster has the permission, but some doubt that the financial climate will allow hope to be transformed into occupied shops and offices.

Confirming the city council's plans to demolish all but the facade of one listed building, close ancient alleyways, move the old market hall and purchase compulsorily prop-

erties within the boundary of the plan, the report by Michael Cross, the environment department inspector, points out that there is no evidence of a firm commitment by a national retail store to provide an anchor for the development.

He agreed that the size of the proposal and its effect on the city centre's historic character had been well tested and generally justified, but his report made clear that the performance of some retail stores may raise a doubt in the mind of Chris Patten, the environment secretary.

Martin Widdow, of the Lancaster civic society, said that the development had been planned when the retail trade was flourishing, but now businesses were in difficulty. "It will be hard to go ahead with a scheme of this size."

Paul Mellor, of the Lancaster chamber of commerce, trade and industry, said that the city needed its new centre to serve a wider area.

Jews complain at board member

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS REPORTER

LEADERS of the Jewish community in Britain yesterday dissociated themselves from the views of a senior member of the Board of Deputies of British Jews in response to a letter he wrote to *The Times* last month.

Dr Lionel Kopelowitz, president of the Board of Deputies, said the views expressed by Geoffrey Alderman, a London university professor of history, "cause harm to British Jewry". Dr Kopelowitz said that the honorary officers of Professor Alderman's constituency, the Clapton Synagogue, had also dissoci-

ated themselves from his views. In the published letter, Professor Alderman referred to an article on the Guinness trial, in which three of the defendants were Jews. He said that he was astounded at the extent to which his British co-religionists behave, as if the normal rules of justice "rules which they themselves expect to be applied by the non-Jewish world — do not apply within Jewish communities".

Professor Alderman has also called for self-defence neighbourhood watch groups to combat attacks on the Jewish community.

Hallowe'en warning on the occult

Next week's Hallowe'en celebrations might seem innocuous but could be a doorway to the occult, evangelical Christian leaders from throughout Europe said at a conference in Eastbourne, East Sussex, yesterday.

The growth of the hallowe'en "trick and treat" practice fostered fear in the elderly and promoted selfish and unacceptable values in the young. The church had to warn against the dangers of even superficial involvement in occult practices, the Council of the European Evangelical Alliance said.

Killer escapes

Frederick Williams, aged 32, who was serving 15 years for murder and rape, has escaped from Gloucester prison after being allowed out to play in a rock band. Brian O'Dell, aged 26, who is serving five years for robbery, also disappeared during a performance by the group, Inside Out, at a home for physically handicapped children at Minchinhampton, in Gloucestershire.

Exam protest

University lecturers have said that they will refuse to mark examination papers unless they win an above-inflation pay deal. The Association of University Teachers approved preparation of a package of industrial action which would include one-day strikes. It said members' pay had fallen up to 20 per cent behind that of comparable professionals.

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Poll tax curbs force councils to implement sweeping cuts

By RAY CLANCY

AN INVESTIGATION by *The Times* of capped councils has discovered sweeping cuts, many affecting the elderly and disabled. Reductions in services mean fewer libraries and museums, increased charges for swimming pools and sports centres, higher bus fares and fewer grants for voluntary agencies.

Almost all the councils are expected to impose further cuts in 1991/92 as a result of being capped this year. One of the most forceful messages from finance departments is that capping must be avoided. Councils are therefore likely to operate a self-imposed capping system to avoid a repeat of this year's financial chaos. They will, however, have to draw a fine line between cuts and providing the essential services that are part of their statutory duty.

The government is expected to announce next year's capping criteria in three weeks' time and most strategists believe they will be as stringent as this year, throwing councils into a round of proposed cuts.

The treasurer in Avon has already suggested cuts of up to £50 million next year, partly because of the financial adjustments made to cope with this year's reduced budget. The county council made cuts of £27.8 million, £15 million of which came from adjustments that cannot be made again.

Building and road maintenance programmes have been cut by £6.6 million and budgets for day care and residential provision for those with learning difficulties have been frozen. Civic amenity sites are now closed on Sundays, the budget for library materials has been cut by £200,000, charges have been increased and the building of libraries postponed.

The council has reduced enforcement of trading standards to save money. Social services have been given no cash for extra child protection teams, there have been reductions in extra staff for children's homes and budgets for day care for the elderly and

physically disabled have been cut. Basildon has reduced its budget by £4.6 million. Most of that, £3.1 million, was found by using house sales receipts to pay debt charges, but leisure facilities have been closed or the charges increased. The cost of bus passes for the elderly has gone up and the number of food and fuel vouchers reduced. There have also been cuts in the council's alarm service for disabled people.

Cuts of £7.6 million have been made in Bristol of which £4.9 million was found "from various financial wizardries". The rest has been made up from stopping recruitment and putting up charges for items such as licence fees, planning applications and car parking.

In Calderdale, reserves have been used to minimise the effects of capping but the Labour-controlled council is worried about next year. Areas likely to be cut include transport for disabled students attending adult education courses, reduction in the summer youth and community programme, museum closures and reduced council house repairs. The council is also considering postponing plans for a new day centre for people with profound physical difficulties.

In Derbyshire, this year's budget has been cut by £45 million with general reductions in all services including closing 11 libraries and cutting grants to voluntary bodies.

Doncaster district council has trimmed £5.5 million from its spending and finance officers have said that £10 million needs to be cut next year. A day care centre and unemployed workers' centre are to be shut.

The London Borough of Hillingdon has been implementing cuts of £7 million as a result of capping and next year there is the possibility of cutting back by £25 million. Threatened services include school meals, day centres, home helps, and education for those with learning difficulties.

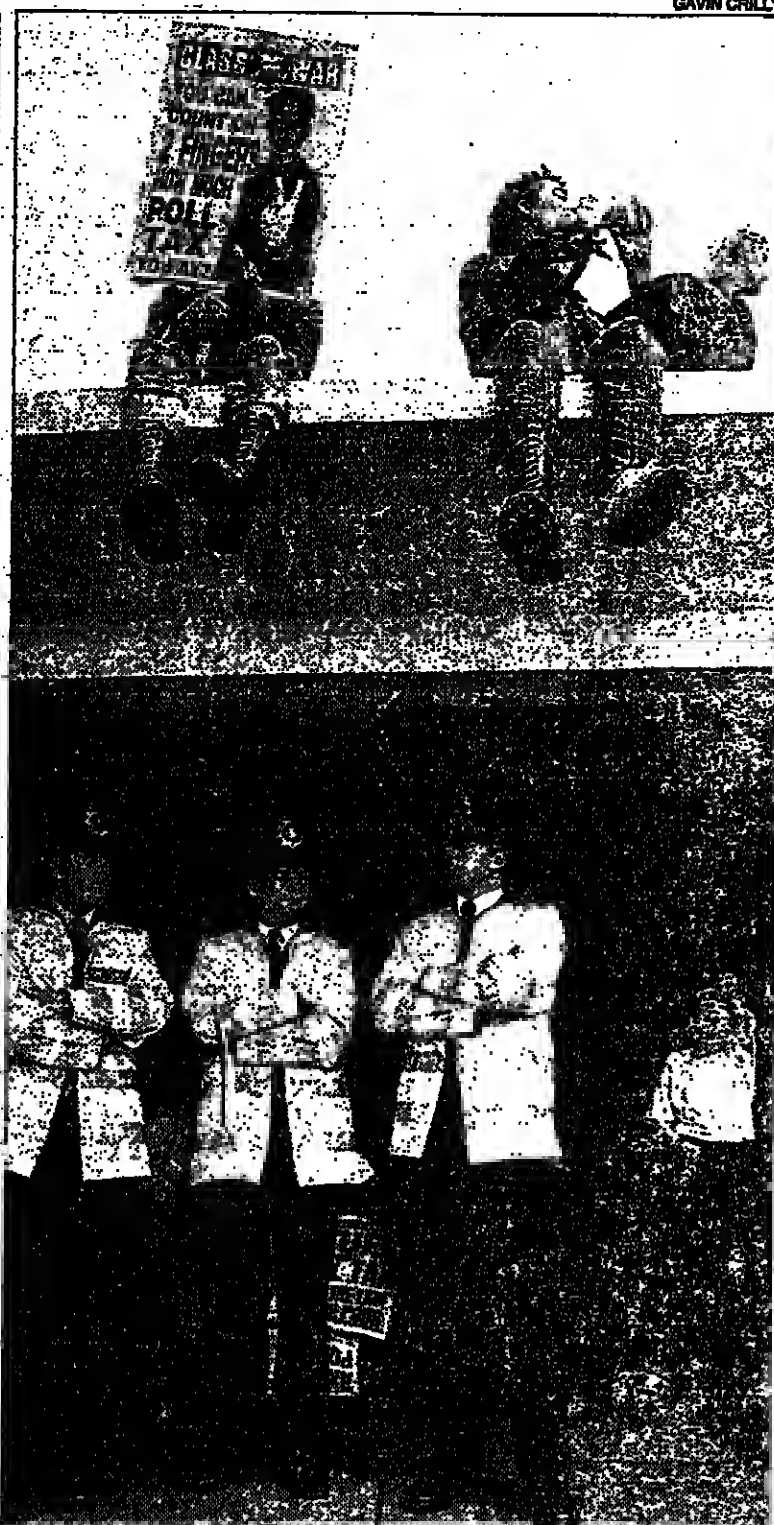
Cuts of £9.2 million have been made in the London Borough of Lambeth of which £8.8 million is a direct result of capping. The council expects to collect overall only 85 per cent of the poll tax that is owed. This will create problems for next year's finances.

Although the Labour council is against sweeping cuts in essential services, the closure of a children's home is being considered and leisure centre opening hours could be reduced, and Brixton leisure centre closed.

Reichale decided in August to reduce its budget by £12 million over two years to cope with capping. Two libraries have been closed, charges increased at leisure centres and opening hours reduced, and 200 jobs lost.

St Helens is considering cuts of between £9 and £13 million next year. The council has already reduced spending by £3.9 million because of capping. Sending out new bills has cost a further £439,000. Nalco, the local government union, said that it was worried about the decentralisation of the council's young people's resource team which it fears could undermine juvenile court work and create problems for the probation service.

Letters, page 15



Viewpoints: anti-poll tax demonstrators give themselves a grandstand view from the roof of a shelter of the main body of the rally which gathered peacefully in Brockwell Park, south London, early on Saturday. Later in the day, however, police grappled with protesters on the streets of Brixton after 2,000 marchers left the main rally and confronted police outside Brixton prison



Ninety-one charged over poll tax riot

By JAMIE DEITMER

NINETY-one anti-poll tax demonstrators were charged yesterday in connection with the riot in Brixton, south London, on Saturday in which 45 police officers were injured and shops damaged. A police report detailing how the riot flared after a peaceful march and rally will be delivered today to David Waddington, the home secretary, who is likely to face stiff questioning from MPs about the re-appearance of anti-poll tax violence.

The looting and rioting came after a crowd of 2,000 left the main body of the march at 4.30pm and confronted police outside Brixton prison, where four people are serving sentences for their part in the Trafalgar Square anti-poll tax riot in March.

Until then, the protest organised by the All Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation which attracted 10,000 people, had been peaceful. Police had given permission for a picket outside the prison but were surprised by the numbers leaving the rally.

Marching under a banner reading "Class War Rent-A-Moh On Tour" several hundred tried to break down metal railings which separated them from police. Demonstrators allege that the police were heavy-handed and they reject police claims that the protest was taken over by anarchists. Reports from bystanders, however, blamed the three hours of fighting on a minority of trouble-makers.

Scotland Yard said that police had come under a barrage of missiles before they moved against the crowd. Three petrol bombs were thrown at police and four unused petrol bombs were found in a garden opposite the prison yesterday.

There were 105 arrests and six civilians injured. Of those arrested, 66 per cent are unemployed, 40 per cent from outside London and 88 per cent are under 30.

AGENDA The week ahead

Today David Waddington, the home secretary, launches national fire safety week. Terry Marsh, the former boxer, goes on trial at the Central Criminal Court for attempted murder. The Princess Royal faces speeding charges at Stow-on-the-Wold magistrates' court. Ian Gow's memorial service is held at St Margaret's, Westminster.

Tomorrow The President of Italy arrives for a state visit. CND protests against the presence of a nuclear warship in London.

Wednesday Cecil Parkinson, transport secretary, launches a children's road safety campaign and attends a conference on ecology-friendly freight transport. The Queen and the President of Italy visit the Lion of Venice exhibition at the British Museum.

Thursday The Princess of Wales attends a service at St Paul's cathedral marking the 50th anniversary of the blitz. Bill Wyman, of the Rolling Stones, signs books in Oxford Street.

Friday Ian Botham, the cricketer, expected in Ipswich at the end of a fund-raising walk from Aberdeen.

Saturday Ulster Unionists hold a conference in Newcastle, Co Down.

Sunday Clocks go back.

£15m centre aims to halt breast cancer

By THOMSON PRENTICE
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A £15 MILLION research centre with the sole aim of eradicating breast cancer is to be established in a British hospital.

The centre, claimed to be the world's first of its kind, has two the support of leading specialists. It will promote the best research into the disease and back the most promising new projects, organisers said yesterday.

The unit is to be based at the Royal Marsden Hospital in Surrey, alongside the Institute of Cancer Research, which together form the largest cancer treatment complex in Europe. Plans involve a £10 million building, new equipment worth £1 million, and a £4 million investment in long-term research. Building work could begin in 1993.

About 15,000 women in Britain die from breast cancer each year, with about 24,000 new cases diagnosed annually. The mortality rate has not improved in the last 30 years in spite of advances in diagnosis and treatment.

A charity called BreakThrough has been formed in London to raise finance for the centre. The Institute and the Cancer Research Campaign intend to support it with £3.6 million. Big companies, trusts and foundations are being asked to help. "The aim is to

produce a programme with a long-term commitment to finding a cure," Barry Gusterson, professor of pathology at the institute, and director designate of the centre, said yesterday.

Five years of medical research into muscle disorders including muscular dystrophy was lost yesterday in a fire which caused damage estimated at more than £500,000 to a wing at Hammer-smith Hospital in west London (Peter Victor writes).

Police are treating the blaze as suspicious. It broke out in the early hours of yesterday morning in the hospital's J wing.

Research into muscle disorders, led by Professor Victor Dubowitz and funded by the Muscular Dystrophy Group, was carried out in a laboratory on the top floor of the wing. Paul Herbage, the hospital's general manager, said: "The whole area has been destroyed. Five years of research has been lost." He said that there had been two minor arson attempts last weekend in the accident department.

The damaged laboratory was the only Jerry Lewis muscle research centre outside the United States. It was built in 1974 with a grant from the Muscular Dystrophy Association of America.

Bomb case appeal unlikely this year

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE new appeal by the Birmingham Six is not expected to be heard until the start of next year at the earliest, according to police and legal sources yesterday. Neither police enquiries nor legal investigations into a possible miscarriage of justice will be complete before Christmas.

The third appeal on behalf of the six since their convictions in 1975 for the worst IRA bombing in mainland Britain was launched when David Waddington, the home secretary, announced seven weeks ago that he was sending the case back to the appeal court. He acted after receiving an interim report from a Devon and Corn-

wall police team looking into the case which suggested that notes of an interview with one of the six might not all have been made at the same time.

Initial hopes of a speedy resolution of a case that has haunted the legal establishment and the Home Office for the past five years now seem unlikely.

The hearing would be speeded up if Allan Green, QC, the Director of Public Prosecutions, decided not to contest the appeal. He will take no decision before receiving the final Devon and Cornwall police report and taking advice from a team of counsel that is examining all the evidence in the case. The other chance of a swift hearing would lie in the discovery of dramatic and overwhelming evidence supporting the appeal.

The Devon and Cornwall police team, led by Chief Supt John Essery, began work in March after lawyers for the six submitted fresh evidence to the Home Office. In August, the team, which is the largest unit formed to look at a specific case of potential injustice, sent the home secretary an interim report raising new evidence on a police record.

Tests using a new system, called electrostatic principle screening, were conducted. The new evidence, according to a lawyer for four of the six, raises fresh questions over former Detective Supt George Reade, who was in charge of the original case.

The Devon and Cornwall police team is now looking at the evidence that originally prompted the investigation to be reopened. A full final report will go to the DPP in London early next year.

In the meantime, a team of four counsel led by Graham Boal, senior Treasury counsel, is examining all the evidence, going back to the original case in 1975. Their final advice to the DPP will not be ready until this task is finished and the police have reported.

The imprisoned men would soon be eligible for parole. Earlier this year, they let it be known that they would not apply and would only leave prison if their names were cleared.



Waddington: sent Birmingham Six case to the appeal court

Dead parrots prove no laughing matter for breeders

WHILE the Liberal Democrat "parrot" twitched into life at the Eastbourne by-election last week, dozens of other members of the *psittacidae* bird family were dying inexplicably around the country.

Parrots, some worth up to £1,000, have been dying at an alarming rate, victims, it is believed, of a mysterious virus that affects their digestive systems and prevents them absorbing food. Mrs Thatcher's liking of the Liberal Democrat's new logo, a bird in flight, to *Manly Pylon's* dead parrot at the Tory party conference in Bournemouth provoked little hilarity among Brit-

ain's parrot breeders, some of whom are facing losses of more than £100,000. Breeders are anxious about the prospects for the parrot in Britain. "You can be feeding an apparently quite healthy bird and two hours later it has keeled over," Mike Liddel-Taylor, a commercial breeder, said.

The latest theory is that tap water is in some way responsible and scientists in East Anglia, the worst affected region, have been asked for a chemical analysis of the water supply. "It could be that a substance in the water, chlorine for instance, does not agree with

parrots," Anglian Water, said. Mr Liddel-Taylor, who runs the Parrot Park Trading Company at Beeston, Norfolk, said: "Everyone is losing birds. Many are species which are extremely rare in captivity, never mind in the wild."

Autopsies on several have shown that the disease breaks down enzymes in the birds' guts and prevents them from absorbing food. Mr Liddel-Taylor has lost ten birds worth £10,000 in the past five weeks. The Veterinary Investigation Service at Cambridge has also been asked to help.

Many of Britain's hedgehogs will die from starvation this

winter if they do not get urgent help, conservationists said yesterday (Peter Victor writes).

Recent hot weather has reduced the number of slugs and worms which make up the staple diet of hedgehogs seeking to build up their reserves before hibernation.

Nick Bruce, of the Lancashire Trust for Nature Conservation, said that the food shortage could spell disaster. "People have reported hedgehogs turning up in their gardens in the middle of the day, wandering around and looking confused and sick." He appealed for emergency food aid to help the prickly-backed creatures

through their hibernation which will be triggered by the coming cold weather. He said people should leave out a bowl of dog or cat food and some water for the hungry creatures to fatten them up. Milk and bread, however, could upset their stomachs, he said.

"Seventy five per cent of the creatures die in their first year through getting squashed on the roads or falling through cattle grids," Mr Bruce said. "If the food shortage stops them reaching a minimum weight of 1lb before the winter even more will die."

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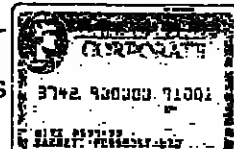
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How the Secret Squirrels exposed firemen's bogus claims

WHAT was supposed to have been the London Fire Brigade's best kept secret has become a fictionalised feature of London Weekend Television's series, *London's Burning*, watched by 12 million viewers.

The Special Projects Group, set up in July 1986 and disbanded in March, is seen at work on Sunday nights as viewers follow the adventures of a fireman known by his nickname of Technique. The man, who works while on sick leave, is followed and watched by two men who later appear in uniform reporting their findings to a senior officer. The cast refer to them as the Secret Squirrels.

Viewers have accepted it as fiction but documents seen by *The Times* make it clear that the character Technique bears a resemblance to the case of a real fireman, Len Howlett, who dropped a £3,000 injury claim after being filmed taking part in a body-building contest while still on sick leave.

Howlett, who was disciplined and resigned, had claimed that an accident at work had left him with a frozen shoulder. A video taken by the unit shows him flexing his clearly unfrozen muscles on stage. The brigade confirmed that the character was based on a real case, "with allowances for artistic licence".

Members of the Special Projects Unit travelled all over Britain to check on claimants whose alleged injuries came

under suspicion. Initially the unit was equipped with two fire brigade vans which were resprayed and fitted with mirror glass. Still cameras were purchased and video cameras were loaned by the training unit. Later when posters appeared at fire stations warning "Brigade Snapper Vans - Checking on You" and giving the registration numbers of the vans, hired vehicles were substituted.

Cases came under suspicion in a variety of ways. In one case a fireman's estranged wife telephoned senior officers to say that he was working in a public house. After investigation his claim of £60,000 was reduced to £2,000. In another a landlady, owed rent by a fireman, disclosed that he had been working for her while allegedly suffering a back injury. His claim of £60,000 was settled for £500.

Members of the unit had to go to great lengths to catch bogus or exaggerated claimants. In one investigation an officer lay buried under leaves on the edge of building site for a day to photograph a fireman who was working while allegedly sick.

Hostility against the unit grew as rumours of its activities spread but senior officers regarded speculation among the ranks as helpful in deterring possible fraud. Senior firemen accept that inflated claims are increasing and blame the national firemen's strike of November 1977 to January 1978 for a

A firemen's special group has been run down, despite its saving millions of pounds and in the face of the chief fire officer's protest. Douglas Broom finds out the secrets of the undercover unit that investigated bogus or inflated injury compensation claims

sea-change in attitudes within fire brigades. Dissatisfaction was expressed in a greater willingness to report sick after minor injuries and that led to a growing realisation of the opportunities to claim damages.

In addition it became clear that, under the firemen's pension scheme, there were "good" and "bad" times to have an accident which forced a fireman out of the brigade. A fireman with ten years and one day's service qualifies for a pension equivalent to one paid to a man with 20 years' service if he leaves because of an injury classed as "due to service". The unit's investigations showed that this loophole was



Len Howlett filmed in body-building contest: dropped £3,000 injury claim

being exploited. Men who had accidents ten years into their careers either exaggerated their symptoms or waited until they had ten years service before complaining of a relapse. As well as a pension they would then claim for future loss of earnings caused by their disability.

Not all the injuries occurred on fire brigade duty. The unit found cases of sporting injuries being claimed as service injuries. In a small but worrying proportion of cases firemen provided bogus witness statements to accidents that never occurred. In one case a fireman with a broken jaw, some of whose colleagues claimed to have

witnessed his fall down stairs, was found to have suffered his injury in a fight with another fireman.

A measure of the reaction from the London Fire and Civil Defence Authority to the annual report, which referred to the existence of the special unit, can be gained from the opening of a subsequent report by chief fire officer, Gerald Clarkson, in March of this year in which he wrote: "In view of the strong views expressed by members I considered it inappropriate to continue with arrangements for in-house investigation."

Dave Higgs, national officer of the Fire Brigades Union, said: "I must accept that there have been a very small number of fraudulent claims but we cannot and will not condone that kind of activity."

"The vast majority of firemen are courageous and dedicated people who protect the public. This union brings cases on behalf of members and it is possible that some people will fool our lawyers and their medical advisers. But we do not condone it. It brings the whole process into disrepute."

The union announced in July that it had won £3,271,473 for its members in compensation claims in 1989, £1 million more than in the previous year. Mr Higgs said that the figures reflected the dangers involved in being a fire fighter, and rejected any suggestion that claims were inflated. The "vast majority" of the 5 per cent of claims which failed last year were due to lack of evidence or contributory negligence, he said.

Although the issue of covert surveillance provoked the political controversy which led to the unit being wound up, the practice is commonly employed by insurance companies and social security investigators.

David McIntosh, a senior partner in Davies Arnold Cooper, London solicitors, who has 25 years experience in personal injury litigation, said: "The use of covert methods is justified because evidence cannot be obtained in any other way. If the defendant's solicitor simply said to his opposite number 'We believe your chap is cheating, is that correct?' he would have time to get his story straight."

Mr McIntosh said most fraudulent claims were "malingerers or exaggerators" although dishonest claims accounted for only a small minority of personal injury cases. "The vast majority of personal injury claims are brought by people who are perfectly genuinely injured and who deserve compensation," he said.

Home Office seeks survey of public outlook on policing

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A REGULAR survey of public satisfaction with police work is being proposed by the Home Office, chief constables and the police inspectorate.

The national survey, to be held every three months, would monitor improvements in the service, special areas such as domestic violence, and make sure that the public gets the policing it wants. The poll could also monitor the way in which police handle victims and complainants of racial attacks, rape and street crime. Indicators of behaviour could then be set up showing if the police were responding to public demand and results of

the survey would be published. Supporters of the plan believe that it would provide an alternative to crime figures as a measure of police performance. The supporters say that crime figures do not measure the full range of police work, are often negative and do not reflect everything the public wants the police to do.

The survey, which would be the first of its kind in the public service sector, is part of a blueprint for improvements in policing, standards, and meeting public expectations. The issue will be debated this week by David Waddington,

the home secretary, chief constables and representatives of junior ranks at a national seminar. The home secretary is understood to support the initiatives.

The blueprint includes a code of conduct for officers and guidelines on how commanders can improve behaviour. It is set out in a report from a working party which spent six months studying the service. The recommendations include a call for forces to carry out consumer surveys. They should also publish an analysis of complaints and letters of appreciation.

The working party's report and the seminar, which will be attended by representatives of the Police Complaints Authority and the Commission for Racial Equality as well as police, were inspired by research for an operational policing review. The review, published earlier this year, showed that there was a big gap between what the police thought the public wanted and what the public really wanted.

Senior officers believe that in recent years the police have begun to forget the strictures of the Scarman enquiry into the riots in Brixton in 1981. The enquiry called for greater community involvement. They have also failed to use police liaison committees.

The report by the working party, which was led by Michael Hirst, chief constable of Leicestershire, said that if the police did not respond to public needs, the public would withdraw even more from supporting the police.

DeLorean settles with receivers

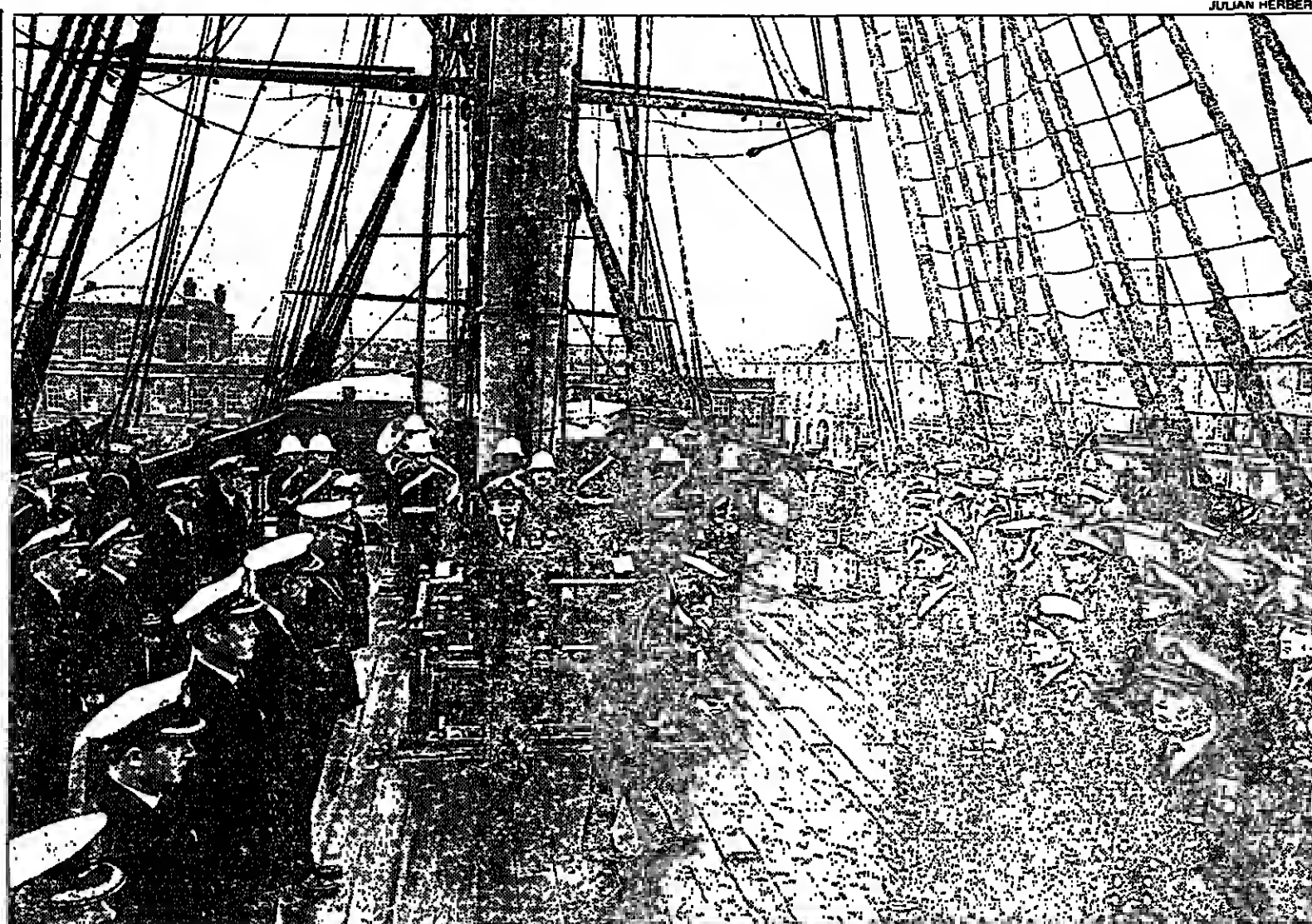
JOHN DeLorean, the maverick car maker who persuaded the government to put \$100 million (\$51 million) into his Belfast plant, has settled with British receivers after an eight-year battle and says that he plans to return to the motor business, perhaps in Germany.

Under an agreement reached in Detroit last week, a company owned by Mr DeLorean will pay \$7 million to the receivers, on top of \$9.4 million that has already gone to creditors. The company, Logan, which makes snow-grooming equipment for ski resorts, was bought partly by proceeds of funds given by the British government to Mr De-

Lorean to finance his Belfast factory in the late seventies and early eighties. Certain sums allegedly never reached the plant, and the plan to build an inexpensive dream sports car crumbled in scandal.

In 1982, Mr DeLorean was charged after a drugs enquiry, but, despite videotape of him taking delivery of a suitcase in a Los Angeles hotel, he was acquitted of any offence. The jury accepted that he had been entrapped by over-zealous undercover police. He was also later acquitted of fraud.

British investigators traced funds for the factory to the personal accounts of Mr DeLorean and the late Colin Chapman, head of Lotus.



Naval captains and commanders watching Admiral Sir Jeremy Black laying a wreath on HMS Victory yesterday to commemorate Trafalgar Day. The Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command placed the tribute where it is thought Nelson fell 185 years ago in the Battle of Trafalgar

Shell faces action over new spill

The National Rivers Authority yesterday confirmed that Shell, the oil company fined £1 million in February for polluting the Mersey estuary, is facing prosecution again after another spill (Ronald Faux writes).

The court action follows the discharge of 500 gallons of light fuel into the river after a pipe burst at the Stanlow refinery in Cheshire. Further prosecutions over two other spills, one in July and another last week, are being considered by the rivers authority.

In the recent incident, Shell is accused of discharging 200 gallons of waste liquid into the Manchester ship canal. The rivers authority said yesterday that it had decided on a prosecution after examining the company's version of events surrounding the incident in September and consultations with its own inspectors.

Shell said it was too early to comment at this stage.

Horse box fall

A boy aged two was in a serious condition in hospital in Birmingham last night after fracturing his skull when he fell out of a moving horse box on the M6. Andrew Rothwell, of Congleton, Cheshire, was travelling with his mother when he crawled into the back of the van and opened a safety latch on the rear door. He fell out on to the hard shoulder of the motorway.

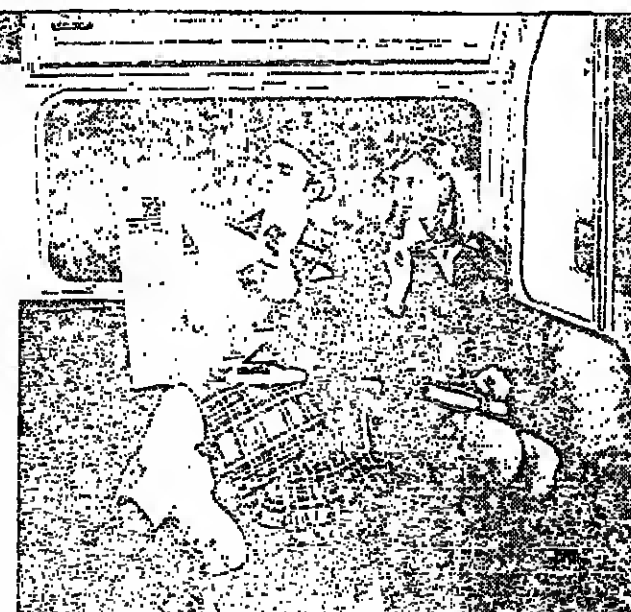
Film awards

Kenneth Branagh's epic version of *Henry V* won two awards from the British Film Institute at the National Film Theatre last night. It took the honours for the best film and for technical achievement. Roger Bolton, a television producer who won the book award for his story of the documentary *Drish on the Rock*.

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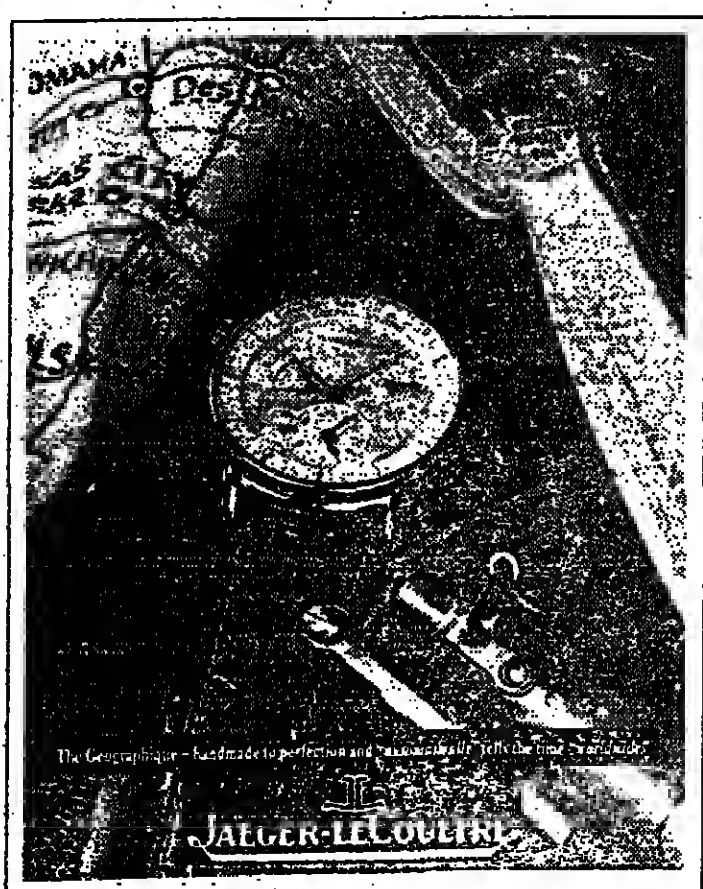
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Capping fear may threaten education spending

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

PROPOSALS to boost government spending on education by up to £700 million next year could be jeopardised unless changes are made to local authority cash limits, Chris Patten, the environment secretary, has been told.

With two weeks before the announcement of next year's spending targets for councils, Mr Patten is under intense pressure from ministers and local authorities who are threatening fresh legal action against the government over cuts on their ability to spend.

In a confidential letter to leaders of Labour-controlled education authorities, Stephen Byers, the chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities' education committee, calls on councils to take the government to the High Court if spending limits and charge capping lead to more education cuts.

John MacGregor, the education secretary, has urged the prime minister to support

Reform of A-levels criticised by heads

By DAVID TYTLER
EDUCATION EDITOR

THE headmasters of leading independent schools are to reject proposals for A-level reform saying that a move to course-work and a weakening of academic disciplines would undermine the examination and reduce standards.

To evidence being sent to the government's examination advisers, the Headmasters' Conference has said that the proposed reforms would also fail in increasing the number of 16-18 year-olds staying on in full-time education. The heads say that a separate examination bridging the gap between GCSE and A-levels should be introduced for the 80 per cent of students unable to cope with A or AS-levels.

Reforms suggested by the Schools' Examination and Assessment Council to improve the sixth form staying-on rate of 25 per cent would bring A-levels more into line with the GCSE, allowing course-work to make up 20 per cent of final marks, possibly rising to 30 per cent.

Vivian Anthony, secretary of the conference, said that this could mean a fall in standards. "The proposals for substantial use of course-work, moderation and records of achievement may have some benefits but will reduce the objectivity and integrity of the assessment and add substantially to the cost."

□ Kenneth Baker, Conservative party chairman, has asked all 295 independent schools operating the assisted places scheme to provide lists of parents being helped under the programme. Many heads are refusing, saying it would break the confidentiality between school and parents.

□ Education vouchers are to be introduced by Wandsworth council, southwest London, for 1,000 three to five-year-olds from September. Each voucher will be worth about £750 a year for use in the council's 60 primary schools.

Education, pages 30, 31

MP longs for a drop of real ale

By ROBIN YOUNG

THERE are at least 5,000 places where real ales can be enjoyed but the Commons is not one of them, according to the Campaign for Real Ale's *Good Beer Guide 1991*.

In an article in the book Joe Ashton, Labour MP for Bassetlaw, reports on the lack of success for his two-year campaign to get "decent" beer in the House. He complains that the Commons' catering services committee has always been dominated by wine drinkers. In the 1960s, he writes, real ale was removed from the House when MPs from the north-east were allowed to bring in kegs of Federation bitter to supply the bar where MPs and the press can mingle. The cellar which formerly housed barrels of real ale was then appropriated to store wines.

Real ale has few friends in the present House, though Mr Ashton mentions the Conservatives Greg Knight and Nicholas Winterton as being among them. Westminster staff have real ale in their bar but MPs do not like to

interrupt them and the staff's real ale is not well kept, he says, so he drinks Pilsner Urquell instead.

Jeff Evans, editor of the guide, said many communities may soon be as deprived as the Commons. Business rates, rent reviews and high interest are forcing small landlords out of business and breweries are closing public houses to cut costs.

"Across the land, country gems, town centre locals and roadside inns are being raped and pillaged," he writes in his introduction. Camra has compiled a list of some 150 pubs closed, sold for development, converted into private housing or turned into theme restaurants or amusement arcades in recent months. The guide welcomes the law requiring tied pubs to accept guest beers which it says has resulted in a flurry of activity among brewers. The book offers tasting notes on 200 real ales, about half of them new.

Good Beer Guide 1991, (Camra, 34 Alma Road, St Albans, Herts, AL1 3BW, £6.99)

£33m debt forecast for London university

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

PROPERTY deals, cuts in staffing and other economies have wiped more than £17 million off the deficit projected for London university in four years' time. The university is expected, however, to be £33 million in debt by the middle of the decade unless further action is taken.

The forecasts have been presented to the Universities Funding Council to demonstrate that London colleges are taking action to curb deficits previously estimated at £46 million by 1993-4. The university tops the council's "worry list" and was of most concern to the public accounts committee in its recent enquiry into university finance.

Three colleges, Queen Mary and Westfield (QMW), Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, and University College, have been pinpointed by the funding council because of their steadily worsening financial forecasts. Five others — King's, Goldsmiths' and Wye colleges, the School of Pharmacy and the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine — are also causing the council concern.

Professor Stuart Sutherland, vice-chancellor of London university, has told the council that the three targeted colleges have made extra staff cuts in the past year. Royal Holloway is expected to wipe out much of its remaining deficit by selling land and part of its valuable collection of paintings, while QMW will

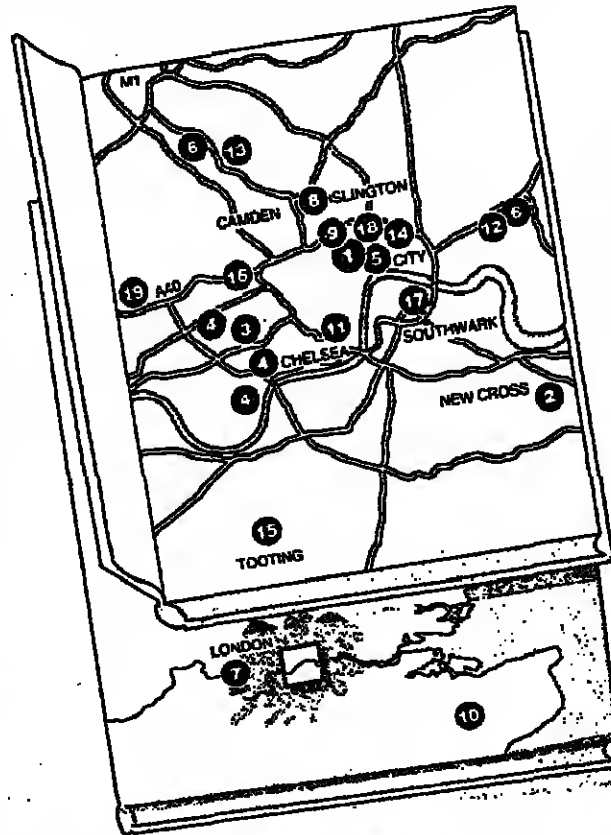
raise millions of pounds from the sale of the Westfield site in Hampstead. Economies designed to save £1 million before the sale can proceed are due to be agreed in December.

Other property deals are expected to transform the position of King's and Wye colleges. The university court agreed on Wednesday to appoint a consultant to plan the most efficient use of its own city centre buildings for academic purposes and to raise more money.

The sale of capital assets will not extricate London from its financial problems, but administrators believe that further re-organisation could enable them to tackle the worst of the problems. "If you are told you must act as a major company but you may not use the biggest asset you have got, you are acting as with a ball and chain around your foot," Professor Sutherland said.

The fate of the university's request for a higher grant to compensate for the extra costs of operating in the capital is a more important element of its financial strategy. The government's autumn statement on public spending should show whether ministers have accepted London's claim for an extra £13.6 million to maintain the same level of staffing and services as other universities.

Full compensation, which remains unlikely, would enable the university to balance



LONDON UNIVERSITY IMBALANCE SHEET			
	Forecast 1989/90	Forecast 1993/94	
1 University College London	-8,864	-7,045	
2 Goldsmiths' College	-477	-216	
3 Imperial College	+712	+443	
4 King's College London	+2,114	+2,085	
5 The London School of Economics and Political Science	+447	+644	
6 Queen Mary & Westfield College	+258	+177	
7 Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, Egham	-352	-181	
8 Royal Veterinary College	+751	-3,362	
9 School of Pharmacy	-3,868	-5,720	
10 Wye College, Ashford	+514	-802	
11 Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School	-2,673	-5,401	
12 The London Hospital Medical College	-474	-3,692	
13 Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine	+261	+63	
14 St Bartholomew's Hospital	+30	-366	
15 St George's Hospital Medical School	-489	+315	
16 St Mary's Hospital Medical School	+73	-369	
17 United Medical and Dental School	+253	-270	
18 British Postgraduate Medical Federation	-368	-218	
19 Royal Postgraduate Medical School	-226	+14	
	+16	+226	
	+28	-68	
	+790	+452	
	-155	-2,164	
	-77	+302	

its books on an annual basis, although it would not wipe out the debt burden that has built up.

Part of the explanation behind the university's increasing financial difficulties lies in the cost of mergers or closures of uneconomic colleges that have taken place. The university expects to show a surplus of more than £3 million on its current account this year, but

it anticipates a deficit of almost £10 million overall.

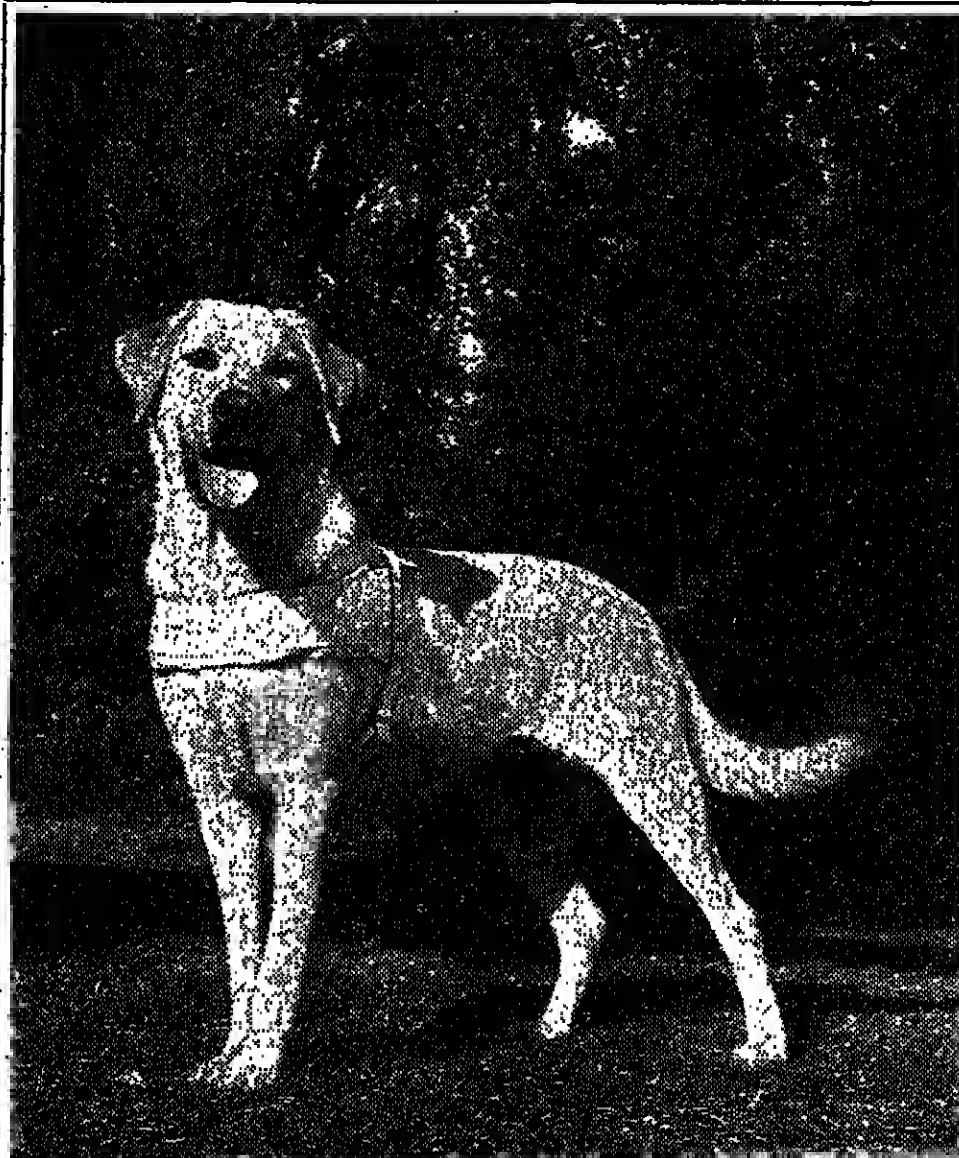
"Some of our problems are the result of London's success in restructuring," Professor Sutherland said. "What people said was impossible nationally has happened here ... we closed by merger. But merger consequences last longer than most people realise, and they take a lot of staff time, as well as having an

effect on admissions." Other contributory factors are falling levels of government grant and underfunding of pay settlements.

London's problems are more obvious because of the size of the university. "If you are dealing with one-fifth of all the students in universities, you are bound to find that what is apparent elsewhere is writ large in London," he said.



Sutherland: colleges cut staff



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MAKING IT ALL MAKE SENSE.

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

Both initiatives come as the government is under pressure to reach an out-of-court settlement to compensate 1,200 haemophiliacs infected with the Aids virus. Speculation grew over the weekend that ministers had instructed their lawyers to negotiate with lawyers acting for the victims of

The government intends to introduce a formula for calculating maintenance pay-

1. *Chlorophyll a* and *Chlorophyll b* were determined by the method of Arar and Collins (1971) using a Shimadzu 1601 UV-Visible Spectrophotometer. The concentration of chlorophylls was expressed in $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$.

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The policy paper, *Housing Cash Crop*, aims to resolve the dilemma of farmers being offered public subsidies to take land out of production while planning controls are interpreted and applied more strictly in response to the demand for new rural homes.

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Murder of Chamoun sends a warning to Lebanon Christians

By MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN DAMASCUS AND ANDREW McEWEN IN LONDON

THE assassination of Dany Chamoun has underlined the unfinished business waiting to be settled after the defeat of General Michel Aoun and his forces a week ago. The murder of a prominent and strong supporter of General Aoun may have been more than a settling of old scores: it seems aimed at discouraging any Maronite hopes of a revival.

President Hrawi, who condemned the assassination, had last week said that Lebanon had moved from war to peace. The observation may have been premature, but peace in Lebanon under a continuing strong Syrian presence appears likely.

Damascus last week offered to help the Lebanese government disband Lebanon's warring militias as a step towards implementing the Taif peace plan agreed to last year. Mr Hrawi held talks with President Assad of Syria yesterday and was promised full support.

Another Syrian priority will be to help bring about the release of Western hostages held by the pro-Iranian Hezbollah (Party of God) in Beirut. The hostages are reported to have been moved from southern Beirut to the Bekaa Valley, which could be in preparation for their release.

Four or five British diplomats are due to arrive in Beirut by Saturday after the agreement last month to restore Anglo-Iranian relations. It is not yet clear

whether the re-opening of the embassy and the hostages' freedom prospects are linked.

Hossein Moussavian, a senior Iranian diplomat, was quoted yesterday as saying that they could be freed in "the near future" or in "two or three months". Mr Moussavian has in the past played an important role in Anglo-Iranian relations.

Although Farouk al-Shara, the Syrian foreign minister, said last week that freedom for the hostages was complicated by the lack of Anglo-Syrian relations, Damascus probably wants them freed as soon as possible. Better links with the West offer the best hope of strengthening Syria's economy, as its role in the Gulf conflict has shown. By dispatching about 3,000 of his 400,000 troops to join the multinational forces facing Iraq, President Assad has bolstered Syria's fortunes. Saudi Arabia is said to have given Damascus \$1 billion (£500,000).

While 80 per cent of Syrians sympathise with Iraq, if not President Saddam Hussein, President Assad was sufficiently confident of his authority to know he would not risk an internal backlash by dispatching troops to join a multinational force against Iraq.

His leadership, backed by a ruthless security apparatus, contrasts with that of the Middle East's other long-standing survivors, King Hussein of Jordan, and

Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian Liberation Organisation chairman, who were both wrong-footed by the events in the Gulf.

By giving what was seen as a diplomatic lifeline to the American forces in Saudi Arabia, President Assad can expect a greater role in any post-conflict Middle East settlement. He can also hope for US pressure on Israel to achieve his long-term goal of winning back the Golan Heights. It is believed that Washington tacitly agreed to the ousting of General Aoun, removing the main challenge to Syria's hegemony over Lebanon.

However, the Syrian presence in the Gulf is to remain largely symbolic, despite pledges to the US last month that it would eventually be increased to 15,000 troops. The Syrians argue that because Jordan is sympathetic to Iraq, and Soviet promises to ship the men in have not been fulfilled. By the time all the Syrian troops arrive, President Assad expects any war to be over, and he will be saved from sending his forces into battle against a brother Arab state.

"It's a very shrewd move," said one Western official. "But the Americans seem satisfied." For his minimum input, President Assad can also expect more economic aid from the West.

Last month, in what was seen as a rare goodwill gesture, Britain lifted its veto at the European Community to allow Syria \$192 million worth of project aid. It was, as Syrian officials observed, a pittance compared to the aid from Saudi Arabia, but it is being seen as a taste of things to come. When diplomatic relations between London and Damascus are restored, which is still several months away, Syria will be able to normalise its comprehensive with the rest of the EC.

Despite long-standing enmity between the Syrian and Iraqi leaders, President Assad has given an impression that Damascus has no hostile intentions against Baghdad. He has mobilised few troops along their joint border, and the Syrian media did not mention that troops were joining the multinational forces until two days after the first Syrians reached the Gulf.

Only a year ago President Assad was out in the cold. The Soviet Union had tightened his purse strings and his arch-enemy, President Saddam, was resurgent after his victory against Iran. In contrast, Syria was isolated from any Arab grouping, and General Aoun, the maverick Christian general, was still defying his authority in Lebanon.

Today Damascus is part of a new regional power axis along with Cairo and Riyadh, while President Saddam is bent on a suicidal course. General Aoun is hiding in the French embassy in Beirut, Syria's relations with Tehran are as warm as ever, and pressure is expected to be applied on Israel to negotiate in the Middle East peace. President Assad's enhanced status is reflected in an observation by diplomats based in Damascus, where his portrait appears on posters. The picture has been altered, they say, so that his benign but firm features now show a trace of a smile.

Leading article, page 15
Obituary, page 16



Dawn victims: the family of Dany Chamoun, his German-born wife Ingrid, and sons Tarek, aged 7, right, and Julian, aged 5, who were killed with the Maronite leader at their home yesterday

Death of patrician who was 'too nice' for Beirut politics

By MICHAEL KNIFE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

WE MET and talked at a simple barbecue lunch at an open-air restaurant in the spectacular forested mountains of the Chabrouh valley, 8,000 ft above the Lebanese coast.

Dany Chamoun had arrived on foot having walked for six hours, 15 miles across the mountains from his home in the ski resort of Fagra. For him it was a regular hike. He was accompanied by a retinue — friends, political associates and bodyguards — and by a second squad of hikers, a dozen children aged under ten, in battle-dress, who proceeded to play noisy war-games around the tables.

Two of the children were Chamoun's sons, Julian and Tarek, gunned down with their father in yesterday's morning bloodbath.

With the Christian enclave surrounded and besieged by Syria and an assortment of Muslim militias, Dany Chamoun was hoping, at the time of our meeting, to arouse Western support for the war being waged by Michel Aoun, the *de facto* Lebanese leader, against Syrian domination. Our conversation was punctuated by distant shell-fire, as Chamoun complained that the West seemed untroubled by the Syrian occupation. In addition to infringing Lebanese sovereignty and shelling civilian communities, he said, the Syrians were firing on ships bound for Lebanon, in international waters. Why did the West do nothing?

Dany Chamoun was a patrician

figure with an easy charm and fair skin and hair, possibly inherited from his half-Scottish grandmother. Some said he was too nice for the viciousness of Lebanese politics, others that he was simply too weak.

As a scion of one of Lebanon's leading families he spoke Arabic, French and English, educated at Loughborough College and could have been as at home in Belgrave or Biarritz as in Beirut. He was initially a hit of playboy and married his first wife, an English model, after being cited in her divorce from the son of Victor Silverstein, the danceband leader.

By the time we met, a year ago, however, his playboy past was behind him. He had returned to Lebanon and become the leader of the Tigers, the Maronite Christian militia of Canille Chamoun, his father and a former Lebanese president. In 1976, in alliance with Bashir Gemayel, the son of another former president, Chamoun's Tigers had attacked and defeated Palestinian forces at the Tel el-Zaatar refugee camp, a notorious battle in which an estimated 2,200 Palestinian men, women and children died.

At the time of our meeting he commanded no militia but was the leader of the National Liberal Party which, he pointed out with some intensity, was the strongest single party in the Lebanese parliament before it fell into disuse in 1988 and power slipped into the hands of the military. Chamoun had been a candidate

for the presidency — and in view of his party's position a likely victor — but the elections did not take place, resulting in the outgoing president, Amin Gemayel, handing authority on an interim basis to General Aoun, his chief of staff.

After lunch Chamoun took me for a tour of the forward positions of the Christian forces, pointing out Syrian positions on the neighbouring mountain ridge and the village of Beskinta. That village, he said, was renowned for the succulence of its cherries and every year he arranged for two crates of the fruit to be sent to the Queen at Buckingham Palace. It was a tradition started by his father when he was president.

Despite the viciousness of the Lebanese conflict Chamoun remained optimistic that peace would one day be regained. Over tea and cakes, he described his involvement in developing a £3.5 million ski resort and talked optimistically of how tourism would boom again if only peace could be achieved.

He admitted that he sometimes got downhearted. But, left alone and protected by the international community from outside aggression, Lebanon could achieve political reform and reunion.

"But we are a country occupied by a foreign force and that has to end first. Until there is peace in Lebanon there is no way terrorism can be eradicated and no way the major issue of the Middle East — the Arab-Israeli issue — can be resolved."

Jerusalem security alert after stabbings

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN JERUSALEM

A PALESTINIAN man armed with a knife stabbed three Israelis to death yesterday on a quiet residential street in Jerusalem.

The attacker was identified by police as an Islamic fundamentalist aged 19 from the Bethlehem area. Police speculated that the man may have been trying to avenge the Temple Mount incident, less than two weeks ago, in which more than 20 Palestinians died after police opened fire.

Aryeh Bibi, the Jerusalem police commander, told a news conference that police reinforcements had been called in to the city to guard against further attacks or reprisals against Arabs. Despite the increased security, there were scattered reports of Arab cars being stoned. There were no immediate reports of injuries.

News agencies received telephone calls from several groups claiming responsibility for the attack. They included a previously unheard-of group calling itself the Islamic Jihad-al-Aqsa Brigades, which apparently takes its name from a mosque on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

Police declined to say if the attacker belonged to any organisation. Two groups are known to be active in the Bethlehem area, Islamic Jihad and Hamas. Both have gained support during the 34-month Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

Yesterday's incident occurred at 7am in the suburb of Baka in southern Jerusalem. The attacker, carrying a knife with a 16-inch blade, first cornered a woman soldier aged 18 and fatally stabbed her in the stomach. He then pursued a shopkeeper aged 43 who was carrying plants to his nursery and stabbed him in the chest.

An off-duty policeman who heard the commotion rushed from his house and, after firing warning shots in the air, shot the Palestinian in both legs. But the Palestinian stabbed the policeman, aged 28, to death before he was wrestled to the ground by others.

David Ben Shimon, who witnessed the incident, told Israeli radio that he and other neighbours pursued the Palestinian and held him for police. "He shouted 'Allah Akbar' (God is Greatest) until we grabbed him from behind, took his knife and got control of him," Mr Shimon said.

Mahdi Abdul Hadi, the director of a Palestinian analytical group in Jerusalem, said that Israel's refusal to negotiate with the Palestinians had created a climate that spawned such violence. "There is fear that a Belfast-style situation will become the norm in Jerusalem if there is no movement toward peace," he added.

Baka was an Arab district until Israel gained control of the western sector of Jerusalem in the 1948 Arab-Israeli war. It is now populated by Jews, with a scattering of Arab families who did not join the 1948 Palestinian exodus from Israel.

The Temple Mount riots two weeks ago reignited the flagging Palestinian uprising in the territories Israel captured in the 1967 Middle East war. During the 34-month uprising, 761 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli soldiers or civilians, and 282 by fellow Arabs, most on suspicion of collaborating with Israel.

Assassins add to their grim tally

FROM REUTER IN BEIRUT

THE killing of Dany Chamoun, the Christian leader, and his family yesterday was the latest in a long line of assassinations in Lebanon's 15-year-old civil war.

The following are the most prominent Lebanese who have been killed since its start in 1975: March 16, 1977: Kamal Jumblatt, aged 60, Druze leader, killed in an ambush near his home in the Shouf mountains southeast of Beirut. A socialist who dreamed of a secular democratic Lebanon, Jumblatt founded and led the Druze Progressive Socialist Party militia and the Lebanese Nationalist movement, a coalition of left-wing parties. Angry Druze villagers avenged his death by killing more than 140 Christians. Jumblatt was seen as campaigning against Syria's military intervention in Lebanon which began in 1976.

June 13, 1978: Tony Franjich, aged 36, deputy and former telecommunications minister, murdered with his wife, daughter and more than 30 followers by Christian militiamen who attacked his summer home in the northern village of Ehdon. Franjich, a Christian Maronite, was the son of former president Suleiman Franjich who asked Syria to send troops to Lebanon and blamed Lebanese Forces militia leader Bashir Gemayel for the killing.

September 14, 1982: Bashir Gemayel, aged 34, president-elect, and 20 followers killed by a bomb in Christian east Beirut nine days before his inauguration. Christian

militiamen killed hundreds of Palestinians in the Sabra and Chatila refugee camps two nights later.

June 1, 1987: Rashid Karami, 65, prime minister, died after a bomb exploded aboard a Lebanese army helicopter. A Sunni Muslim moderate and head of Lebanon's "last chance" government since 1984, Karami had submitted his resignation in May 1987 but President Amin Gemayel refused to accept it.

May 16, 1989: Sheikh Hassan Khaleel, aged 68, head of Lebanon's Sunni community, killed by a car bomb as his motorcade passed through Muslim west Beirut. The blast killed 22 people and wounded 80.

November 22, 1989: Rene Muawad, 64, newly-chosen president, killed with 16 others on Lebanon's independence day when a bomb ripped through his motorcade in west Beirut. Syrian-backed Muawad was chosen on November 5 as Lebanon's first president in more than a year. His election was the result of an Arab peace pact to end Lebanon's civil war. Syria pointed a finger at Michel Aoun, the army chief, who dismissed Muawad as a Syrian puppet. Aoun denounced the killing as an "ugly crime."

October 21, 1990: Dany Chamoun, aged 56, prominent Christian leader, his wife and two sons, shot dead at home in the east Beirut suburb of Baabda by three hooded gunmen wearing Lebanese army uniforms.

Anti-war protesters march again in US cities

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN NEW YORK

IN A scene reminiscent of the anti-war protests of the Vietnam era, 10,000 demonstrators marched through New York on Saturday, demanding a US withdrawal from the Gulf. Thousands more protested in Atlanta, Boston, Washington, San Francisco and other cities.

"Hell No, We Won't Go, We Won't Fight for Texas," the demonstrators chanted in New York, where they walked the old Vietnam war route from Columbus Circle to Times Square led by seven reserve soldiers who had either deserted or become conscientious objectors.

The Saturday marches, attended by left-wing groups, Vietnam veterans, churchmen, students and soldiers' families, were the strongest sign so far of doubts among the American public over President Bush's military confrontation with Iraq.

Other evidence came from a poll by *Newsweek* magazine, published yesterday, which found that 69 per cent of Americans believed

that Mr Bush was not making enough effort to find a diplomatic solution; while 73 per cent thought that Mr Bush should wait longer for sanctions to work before considering military action to remove Iraq from Kuwait. But 43 per cent said that even if Iraq pulled out, Mr Bush should order military action to eliminate Iraq's military power or remove President Saddam. Misgivings over the prospect of war have increased in recent weeks with the waning of the feeling of national emergency aroused by Mr Bush's initial call to arms in August. The debate over the domestic budget has sharpened a perception among many that America has no business sending a quarter of a million troops to fight in Arabia at a time of economic crisis at home, according to polls.

In New York, about twenty speakers harangued the protesters with themes familiar from the Vietnam days. "We're here



Sound proposition: a 78-year-old protester outside the White House during a Washington rally against Gulf intervention

because we have an imperial presidency, as unrestrained as any military dictatorship that ever lived," said Ramsey Clark, who was attorney general for President Johnson at the time of America's initial build-up in Vietnam. "It's like it's the Sixties all over again," said Leonard Johnson, a veteran of the last big protests. "Only then, the villains in the government were bigger and we still beat them. Now we're on against the Bush League." A common theme among speakers and on protest banners was the

argument that the United States should have no part in defending feudal Arab states. Some speakers broke into a chant that proved popular in the march into Times Square where the protesters gathered in front of the armed forces recruiting station: "George Bush, read our lips, we're not boarding any Pentagon ships."

Jimmy Breslin, the New York commentator, stood in Columbus Circle looking at the crowd and mused: "The numbers are so large this suggests that Washington probably can't consider waging war without any great opposition at home."

● TOKYO: More than 23,000 Japanese rallied and marched at 17 points in Tokyo yesterday, protesting against a government plan to send soldiers to the Gulf.

More than 11,000 people gathered at a Tokyo park, while almost 12,000 others joined hands in a human chain that nearly surrounded a US air base in the suburbs, according to a police official who asked not to be named. (AP)

'Dig deep and keep powder dry' Desert Rats told

FROM REUTER IN EL ALAMEIN

VETERANS of the desert battle of El Alamein have advice for US-led forces in the Gulf: dig deep, save water and keep your powder dry.

Widows wept, spurred and booed former foes saluted and cameras clicked as buglers in spiked helmets played *Last Post* in memory of allied and axis troops who fell in the battle of El Alamein that began 48 years ago on tomorrow.

Some of those at the ceremony gave some thought to the arrival in Saudi Arabia on Saturday of the first Challenger tanks of the modern-day "Desert Rats" of Britain's 7th Armoured Brigade.

White-haired veterans, their chests plastered with campaign ribbons, clipped in with advice for the troops massing in the Gulf to confront Iraq. "Be bloody cheerful," boomed Pat Lewis, who won the Military Medal for gallantry at El Alamein. "Save your water ration, and every time a shell comes in, dig your hole a little deeper."

El Alamein was the turning-point of the second world war North Africa campaign — and both terrain and climate are similar to the Arabian desert.

Colonel Michael Martin, shepherding a group of tourists and veterans around the spick-and-span cemeteries, said the

lessons of desert warfare in the second world war could apply just as well to the US-led coalition of forces massed in Saudi Arabia. "The key is to get the resources at the right place and time, to get everything in place before starting. That was the key to General (later Field Marshal) Montgomery's success," said Colonel Martin, formerly of the Royal Hampshire Regiment.

In the Western desert, the wrecks of tanks have been replaced by concrete villas as Egypt's tourism industry gallops along the coast toward Libya. Sunday's interdenominational ceremony took place against the background of bulldozers and lorries

carving out beach resorts, tourist villages and a four-lane highway.

Each year a brief ceremony is held to commemorate the dead of El Alamein. The three main antagonists — the Germans, Italians and British — take turns to do the organising.

Montgomery, commander of the Eighth Army in the desert, had massed his forces in a strong defensive position to crush the already exhausted axis forces led by Rommel. Montgomery had 700 bombers and fighter aircraft, unmatched by the Luftwaffe, and 1,200 tanks to the 500 of Rommel's Afrika Korps. With an opening barrage of nearly 1,000 guns, the allies broke through and

wore down their adversaries, depleting their already thin reserves of fuel, ammunition, vehicles and men.

The campaign had not started that way. Initially, the impetuous Rommel's Panzers routed the poorly equipped and indifferently led Allies. The veterans remembered what it was like to live on the run, like a rat in a hole. "We lived a hard life, digging for survival like desert rats — that's where the nickname came from," said Jim Glibbery, a former stretcher bearer with the Fourth Essex Regiment. "Our tanks were about as good as cocoa tins, and in the beginning we were badly outgunned," he recalled.

Church leaders call for 'just solution'

By RUTH GLEDHILL AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE Archbishops of Canterbury and York yesterday called for prayers to find a "just solution" to the confrontation in the Gulf "without recourse to the horrors of war". They expressed their support for the action of the United Nations.

The appeal came as warships in the Gulf went into an advanced state of readiness after an American destroyer fired warning shots across the bows of an Iraqi tanker, al-Bahar al-Arabi, when it ignored orders to stop to be searched. US authorities did not immediately disclose the outcome.

Although the defence ministry said that there was no British involvement in the incident, the HMS Gloucester went on the alert in anticipation of an Iraqi military response.

On Saturday Mrs Thatcher told Yevgeni Primakov, an emissary from President Gorbachev, that no political arrangement to help President Saddam Hussein of Iraq withdraw from Kuwait without losing face would be acceptable. He called to see her at Chequers to report on a meeting with President Saddam. Whichever sources said he believed some arrangement might be possible, though he did not suggest there should be concessions.

Mrs Thatcher replied that the allies would not pay any price to get Iraqi forces out of Kuwait. He had to go — "and that's that". It was not for the allies to save his face. He had got himself into a jam and would have to get himself out of it by leaving Kuwait.

The House of Bishops of the Church of England, which discussed the Gulf last week, did not issue a statement of its views. However, senior churchmen of all denominations have been consistent in calling for a "just solution". Most have said that a war with

Iraq would not meet conditions needed for a just war.

Dr Robert Runcie and Dr John Habgood yesterday issued a prayer to coincide with United Nations Day next Wednesday. The prayer read: "With the end of the Cold War that has lighted the world for so long, the United Nations are at last able to function as their founders intended. They moved with great speed to deal with the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. The comprehensive UN sanctions against Iraq provide the world's best hope for a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis."

The archbishops called on Christians throughout the country to pray for a successful outcome of the UN's endeavours and for all those immediately affected by the conflict. They prayed in particular for the hostages held in Iraq and Kuwait and their families, and for the people of Iraq whose government has brought them into conflict with the world. "Above all, we call for prayers that a just solution may be found without recourse to the horrors of war."

Last week, the primates of the Anglican communion expressed their dismay at the "appalling loss of life" in the Temple Mount killings at Jerusalem on October 8.

According to the Rev Philip Crowe, a theologian in the Church of England, a war against Iraq would not meet the basic conditions of a "just war". Speaking last week on BBC Radio he said that the church had failed to give a spiritual and moral lead in the Gulf conflict. Mr Crowe said: "The Gulf crisis doesn't even meet the basic condition of a just war, which is that it must be fought for a just cause."

The Rt Rev Richard Harries, Bishop of Oxford, later supported Mr Crowe's view that the conditions for a just war were not met.

'CAN YOU THINK OF A BETTER 2.0 LITRE EXECUTIVE CAR? WE CAN'T.'

(CAN YOU THINK OF A BETTER TESTIMONIAL FROM A MOTORING MAGAZINE? WE CAN'T.)

Why run an advertisement when the motoring press is doing the job for you?

The £15,870* Alfa Romeo 164 2.0 Twin Spark won a rapturous review in a recent article in 'What Car?' which tested five executive cars, four of which fell within the two litre tax bracket.

The cars included the new Peugeot 605 SRI, as well as a Ford Granada 2.0i Ghia, a Rover 820e and a Volvo 740 GLT.

Even in introducing this line-up, the magazine was unequivocal about the Alfa Romeo. (Since this space has been paid for but the magazine article wasn't, you will probably be more impressed if you read their words.)

'Fabulous 164 body now comes with Twin

While the Volvo has pace, it has little else going for it, hence its third placing. The Rover... ultimately lacks the Alfa's pure brio and charm.

HANDLING AND RIDE.

'Why does the 605 give best to the Alfa 164? The fluid way (the 164) strings bends together, its grip, balance and eager turn-in make it a rewarding machine for the keen driver.

'(The Rover's) steering remains light and rather dead, neither can it cope with bumps encountered in mid-bend.

'The Ford feels a bit squashy and roly-poly, underdamped even, if asked to cover the ground briskly. Compared with its rivals, the (Volvo) 740 feels a decade out of date. Its reactions are

why this shouldn't be true of the smaller-engined car, and just look at those servicing times - 12,000 miles between them.

'Third place goes to the Volvo because it's just too expensive to buy in this company.

VERDICT.

'The 605's problem is the Alfa 164, a car which has already done wonders for Alfa's image.

'In Twin Spark Lusso guise, the Alfa's a cracker: fast, responsive, fine-handling, fluid, a car to bring out the best in a driver as it flows along the road. And crucially, it's pleasurable for its passengers, too.

'It's an object of desire, a car to covet, the one out of the five you'd most want to see in your driveway. And all for the price, or thereabouts, of a Granada Ghia, and considerably less than a Volvo 740 GLT.

'Can you think of a better 2.0 litre executive car? We can't.'

For the record, the 164 2.0 Twin Spark has power steering, electric windows and door mirrors, stereo radio cassette and central locking as standard, as well as an ABS option, all for £15,870. The £17,870* 164 2.0 Twin Spark Lusso also has ABS, an electric sunroof and alloy wheels as standard, as well as air conditioning and leather seats as options.

In another comparative test, What Car? magazine gave top marks to the Twin Spark's larger engined brother: the £22,635* 143 mph Alfa Romeo 164 3.0 V6.

'When it comes down to it the 164 Lusso offers such terrific value for money that the decision couldn't go any other way. It's exceptionally well specified, has bags of performance from what is one of the best engines currently available in any car on the market, and it looks sensational.'

For further details, or to arrange a test drive at your nearest dealer, fill in the coupon and send it to the Alfa Romeo Information Service, FREEPOST 952, Sandwich, Kent CT13 9BR or telephone (0304) 617788 (24 hours).



Spark engine from the smaller Alfa 75. The Non-Lusso model looks terrific value.

'As the name suggests, there are two spark plugs per cylinder, but the engine also has variable inlet valve timing. Theoretically, it's a very efficient engine and on paper the results are impressive: 148 bhp from a non-turbo charged 2.0 litre four is good going. Against the Peugeot's 122 bhp eight valve engine, the Alfa Romeo 164 is clearly a long way ahead on power.

PERFORMANCE AND ECONOMY.

'Overall, the Alfa sparkles above the others here. The difference is that it has verve and spirit and really revels in being driven hard.

'(The Granada's) engine is noisy and thrashy in the extreme and has absolutely no enthusiasm for hard work.

'Overall the 605 performs pleasantly. Yet there's something missing in its harmony.

'It does feel like a big, heavy car endowed with a small and relatively under-powered engine.

slow and stolid, and the body rolls, squirms and sbludders through the hends and over the humps as though connected only distantly to the wheels.

QUALITY AND EQUIPMENT.

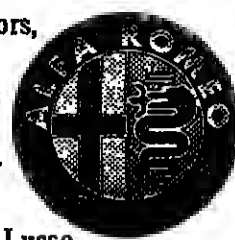
'Quality, in the sense used here, means more than just build integrity. It also encompasses quality of materials, and how effectively they are used in the aesthetic sense. Judged accordingly, the Alfa Romeo and the Rover vie for first place. Both have deep, lustrous paintwork, expensive-looking and feeling plastics inside, high-quality seat fabrics and decent carpets. Compared with these two, the Peugeot doesn't quite make the grade.

'(The Granada's) rear bumper shakes when you shnt the boot, the strip of fake wood across the fascia is a woeful misjudgement and it's all starting to look a touch messy, a shade dated.

'Dated certainly describes the Volvo.

SERVICING AND COSTS.

'In 3.0 litre form, the well-built 164's... secondhand values are strong. There's no reason



A RACE APART

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Mr, Mrs, Miss, etc. Initial Surname _____

Address _____

Town, City _____

County _____

Postal Code _____ Tel. No. _____

Year of reg. _____ Present Car ☐ Tick box for test drive.

US academics under pressure to rewrite ethnic history

From CHARLES BRENNER
IN NEW YORK

IN THE old days, a few dates and names sufficed to sketch the history taught in American schools: pyramids, Greeks, 1066, Richard the Lionheart, Christopher Columbus, Mayflower, George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and so on.

But, in late 1990, history teachers venture into a political and racial minefield as rival ethnic and even sexual groups fight for the recognition they say has been denied them. In New York, eight black families have sued the state education authority for failing to teach their children about black achievements. In California, after years of study, the state authority has approved history textbooks that seek to accommodate every culture. They were immediately

attacked by black, Asian, Hispanic, Islamic, Jewish, Indian, Chinese, women's, gay and lesbian organisations, all claiming their contributions had been slighted. Muslims said only Muslims should have written the chapters on Islam; Chinese said their cruel treatment at the hands of whites had been glossed over; Jews complained that nothing was said about persecution by Christians; homosexuals said that famous gays had not been given their due. Above all, black historians denounced the new course as hopelessly biased towards the white, European version. A number of schools are seeking to redress this alleged bias with history lessons that state, among other things, that blacks discovered America, invented the telephone, built the pyramids and invented writing. The criticism in California was

surprising since the state had tried to wipe the slate clean and produce a curriculum that drew on every culture and "was no longer exclusively the property of white males", as one of the authors of the new textbooks put it. Some educators are wondering if they should give up the whole idea of producing a single history for all Americans, one that seeks to weave all the ethnic and religious experiences that forged the country. Bill Honig, the chief of California's huge public education system, sounded the alarm this month: "The question is, do we keep the society together or do we break up into tribal warfare?" he asked. "If you take this to its logical conclusion you get Lebanon or Northern Ireland."

Diane Ravitch, a professor of history at Columbia University in

New York, wrote in the *American Scholar* that the country was in for trouble if it failed to preserve an "agreed-upon vision of liberty and justice... a society and a culture to which we all belong". The biggest challenge to such thinking has come from the creation of "Afrocentric" history courses in schools and universities over the past couple of years. Milwaukee this month approved special schools for black children where they will be taught a curriculum that stresses black achievements, based on the thesis of self-esteem, which holds that black children fail at school because they feel left out of a white-dominated culture. Coming 36 years since the Supreme Court abolished segregation in American schools, the Milwaukee scheme has prompted an outcry. But education officials

in New York said they were considering the possibility of a similar experiment in the city as a possible desperate measure to stem the huge drop-out rate among black boys. In New York state, one in every four black men under the age of 30 is either in prison, awaiting trial or on parole or probation. A study by the state education commission reported recently that history as taught had made blacks "victims of an intellectual and educational oppression". Establishment scholars say they are particularly concerned about teaching in some schools, based on the Afrocentric belief that African peoples achieved a very high level of culture in a distant golden age and that ancient Egypt was an all-black African nation. By absorbing Egypt's achievements, they teach, ancient Greece

therefore owed the roots of its culture to Africa. These historians treat as fact the claim that Africans sailed to the Americas 2,000 years before Columbus. Evidence for this is based on sculptures and other artefacts that could be interpreted as negroid. Afrocentric teachers are also telling children that the telephone was really pioneered by Lewis Howard Latimer, a black man who worked for Bell. The American Textbook Council, a private organisation which monitors school materials, is upset by such courses. Gilbert Sewall, its director, said: "What is worrisome is not just the way that facts are put together but through-out there is a sense that they are teaching that racism and evil is all around."

On a broader level, the ethnic focus is being denounced by many

historians as essentially dishonest. Arthur Schlesinger, the New York historian and one of the most vocal critics, says it amounts to inventing "happy history". "I don't think that history is a form of therapy that should be used to improve self-esteem," he said recently. Asian Americans, he notes, excelled in US schools without any role models in the history books. The argument over school history classes comes at a time when Americans of all races have been inspired by the power of the highly acclaimed documentary television series on the civil war. Publishers are now struggling to meet the demand for works on the period of the 19th century conflict. The extraordinary interest in the era suggests that the country is not so "tribalised" in its view of history after all.

Democratic groups fail to find unity in Moscow

From MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

MORE than 2,000 delegates from all over the Russian Federation gathered in Moscow at the weekend for the first congress of Democratic Russia, an umbrella group uniting more than two dozen political groups opposed to Communist rule.

The two-day meeting, which was chaotic and at times angry, eventually adopted a moderate constitution, expressed support for the Russian parliament's decision to proceed alone with a programme of rapid economic reform, and called on President Gorbachev to accept Boris Yeltsin's proposal of a reformist coalition within two weeks. The meeting struggled on yesterday evening with little direction and sporadic decisions. Attempts to forge alliances foundered repeatedly on the strong and stubborn characters of rival leaders. By the end, Democratic Russia looked no more convincing a political force than it had at the start.

A number of smaller Christian parties fell by the wayside, unhappy with the decision to offer a coalition to the central leadership. Two of the movement's potential

leaders, Vladimir Lysenko of the Democratic Platform, the reformist group which left the Communist party in July and Nikolai Travkin, who founded the Russian Democratic party when he left the Communist party and the Democratic Platform last April, were in conflict over the sort of group Democratic Russia should be.

Mr Travkin argued for it to set up a proper administrative structure and become a political party as soon as possible. Mr Lysenko argued that the movement could stay together as an opposition group only if it maintained its looser organisation. Both were concerned that the movement had built its success largely on negative policies — opposition to communist rule — and had few constructive policies to offer.

Large pre-revolutionary Russian flags hung inside the hall, and a photograph of the late Andrei Sakharov, who is now acknowledged as the author of the Soviet democracy movement, was propped up on one side of the platform. Dr Sakharov's widow, Yelena Bonner, made one of the more cogent speeches, appealing for an end to recriminations against former communists and deploring the way her late husband had been made into an icon.

She also berated Mr Gorbachev for arrogating additional presidential powers, but passing responsibility for his economic programme to the republics. She said the republics, including Russia, should either demand the powers to implement their programmes, or insist that Mr Gorbachev take responsibility.

Mrs Bonner was one of few delegates to be greeted with enthusiasm. Another was the former dissident priest, Gleb Yakunin, who said if Ukrainian students could topple the republic's prime minister, then the Russian Democrats could oust Nikolai Ryzhkov. Otherwise, approval was reserved for calls that Russia should abandon the Soviet Union, recruit its own army and mint its own currency — measures which Mr Yeltsin, as Russian president, has so far opposed.

Many of the democratic movement's luminaries were absent. Mr Yeltsin, who was absent on medical advice, sent a message of greeting; the mayor of Moscow, Gavril Popov, sent a rousing appeal giving Mr Gorbachev two weeks to agree to a coalition.

On the first day, proceedings started 30 minutes late because of the crush of people trying to enter the hall; police were called and crash barriers were set up in an attempt to separate legitimate delegates from vociferous anti-communists outside.

Florida jury acquits rap music band

New York — A Florida jury has acquitted the rap music band, 2 Live Crew, on charges of performing obscene songs. The verdict was hailed by civil liberties groups as a victory for artistic freedom (Charles Brenner writes).

After the verdict, the Recording Industry Association of America said: "This judgment should serve as notice to others trying to find music obscene that Americans believe very strongly in our First Amendment rights. Whether they find it vulgar or obnoxious or lewd still does not mean that it is criminally obscene."

Gaddafi's might
Concern in the West over Colonel Gaddafi's influence in Sudan increased yesterday, after Omar Hassan al-Bashir, Khartoum's military leader, said that his country would merge with Libya as soon as possible. Thousands greeted Colonel Gaddafi when he arrived in Khartoum to observe the final session of a conference on Sudan's political future.

Village captured
Colombo — Government troops captured a strategic coastal village in the north and killed 20 Tamil rebels. The capture of Mawaddipuram would open a passage to Kankesanthurai, a vital, rebel-controlled port one mile away. There was no immediate response from the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. (AP)

Jail riots spread
Athens — Rioting by prisoners pressing for reforms spread to the central Greek jail of Larissa, the fifth prison to revolt this month. More than 100 of the jail's 500 prisoners took to the rooftops, burned mattresses and smashed furniture. Rioting has also taken place in prisons in Athens, Crete, Patras and Halkida. (Reuters)

Islands dispute
Taipei — Japan's navy stopped a team of Taiwan athletes from planting an Olympic torch on a deserted chain of islands whose sovereignty is disputed between Taiwan, China and Japan. Taiwan's state television said at least two Japanese navy ships prevented the athletes from landing at the Diaoyutai islands, 120 miles north of Taiwan. (Reuters)

Kabul battles
Kabul — Afghan planes and artillery units attacked mujahidin guerrillas laying siege to the southern city of Qalat, the government said. It said its forces had killed more than 80 rebels in fighting around Qalat, capital of Zabol province. (Reuters)



War games: two young Russian girls trying their hand with a Kalashnikov rifle during an open day at the Soviet army base at Weimar in what was East Germany. It was the second time Moscow's troops stationed in the country have opened their operation to the public.

Italian secret services given ultimatum over Moro letters

From RICHARD BASSETT IN ROME

GIULIO Andreotti yesterday threatened Italy's secret services with sweeping reforms if they did not quickly clarify the mysterious discovery ten days ago of letters written by Aldo Moro, the murdered leading Italian politician and Christian Democrat leader.

The letters, written during Moro's 55 days of captivity in 1978, were discovered by workmen in a flat which had been extensively searched without success by more than 400 security agents from no fewer than six different organisations.

The discovery has embarrassed

the security apparatus and caused Signor Andreotti's Christian Democrat Party discomfort. One letter alleges that Signor Andreotti and other politicians failed to negotiate seriously with the Red Brigades which kidnapped Moro. Another claims that the Christian Democrats were financed throughout the 1950s by the American embassy in Rome.

Publication of the letters comes at a time when the political spectrum here is once more on the move. Signor Andreotti's government is ridden with divisions and elections are expected within six

months. He made it clear yesterday that he thought the letters could have been planted in the flat well after 1978, awaiting "discovery" at a moment when they could cause the greatest instability.

"I want to find the postman of these letters. If the security services cannot find out what precisely took place, we will send someone else," Signor Andreotti said. He added that all the forces of the state could be brought to bear on the mystery, and that he would not hesitate to streamline and unify Italy's various security organisations.

Earlier this year he drew up plans to restructure the security services, only to shelve them after opposition from senior officers. Unless the services discover who planted the letters and when, Signor Andreotti will resurrect his plan.

The murdered politician's family demanded copies of all 413 pages of the letters.

Vittorio Feltri, editor of the weekly *Europeo*, was questioned by police at the weekend after the magazine published an interview with a carabinieri officer who infiltrated the Red Brigades after 1978 and claimed that all of Moro's letters had been handed over to Carlo Alberto Dalla Chiesa, the carabinieri general in charge of the initial investigation, who caused disquiet at the time by refusing for five days to hand over papers he had discovered. General Dalla Chiesa was shot by the Mafia in Sicily shortly afterwards.

Germans face speed restriction

From IAN MURRAY
IN BONN

PLANS to impose a 60kph (37.5mph) speed limit on Germany's motorways during fog are in an advanced state of preparation by the transport ministry, which has in the past held out for the right of the motorist to travel as fast as he or she wants.

The plans have been drawn up after a series of accidents, including one last week in which ten people died and 87 were injured in fog. The idea is to set up reflectors at 50-yard intervals and to require drivers to obey a 60kph limit if visibility drops below this level. Discussions are under way with state government authorities on introducing the limit early next year, although some road safety experts say 60kph is too fast for safety in fog.

Motorway limits run counter to what has been the West German view that unlimited speed was one of the freedoms which came with democracy. The slogan was "a free drive for a free man".

Because of the strength of the motorist lobby in the country, the idea of limits has always been seen as a political mistake. One transport minister who suggested that they might be a good thing lost his job. Friedrich Zimmermann, the present incumbent, has been on record as saying that "speed limits are unnecessary", while the transport ministry has joined forces with the national automobile association, Adac, to produce facts and figures to prove that speed does not necessarily kill.

The Gatt issue will leave the ministers with less time to discuss economic and monetary matters, and plans for closer political union among the Twelve.

The ministers will also press Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, to endorse proposals for closer defence and foreign policy co-operation within the EC, and to make decisions on the community's more efficient and accountable. Without either, any plans for accelerated political union, outlined by France and Germany and vigorously endorsed by Italy, Britain, insist it is wrong to pre-empt the December conference or narrow down the agenda at this stage.

Gianni De Michelis, the Italian foreign minister, will today call for more majority voting in the community, the extension of EC competence to defence and foreign policy, and a greater role for the European parliament in decision-making.

Today's meeting is due to discuss the Gulf, transatlantic relations and Eastern Europe's urgent need for aid to meet increased oil prices.

Older American men who want to live through to the next decade have been given some striking advice by researchers at the University of California: get married or stay married. The San Francisco team, found, in an extensive study, that unmarried men between the ages of 45 and 64 are twice as likely to die within ten years than those who are living with wives. Of greatest surprise was the finding that men who lived with someone other than a spouse, including mistresses, children, parents or others, survived no better than men who lived on their own.

Aborigines threaten to boycott Mandela visit

From ROBERT COCKBURN IN SYDNEY

NELSON Mandela faces an embarrassing boycott of his visit to Australia by Aborigines hurt over his unwillingness to discuss the racism and violence confronting Australia's black population.

The deputy president of the African National Congress is due in Canberra today for a four-day visit. He will meet Bob Hawke, the prime minister.

Yesterday Gary Foley, an influential aboriginal leader, accused Mr Mandela and the ANC of hypocrisy. There had been hopes that he would discuss such contentious issues as land rights, and the death rate of blacks in custody, which is reported to be

higher than in South Africa. "Mandela's decision not to talk about aboriginal issues is a condition of getting money out of the Australian government," Mr Foley told the Sydney *Sun-Herald*.

"It's hypocrisy. They (the ANC) went to great extremes to try to suggest that there was no problem of racism in Australia."

However, the aboriginal community is split on the issue, with one leader saying Mr Mandela would be made welcome.

ABC radio yesterday reported that Mr Hawke would consider lifting sanctions against Pretoria when the elimination of apartheid was shown to be "irreversible".

NEW YORK NOTEBOOK by Charles Brenner

Culture shock blowing in the wind for Dylan

After a rousing rendition of *Blowin' in the Wind*, Bob Dylan basked in a shrieking, stomping, standing ovation the other night. There was nothing very unusual about that, as the protest is still going strong. What made the show newsworthy was its venue: the West Point military academy.

To the disbelief of his diehard fans, Dylan was invited to America's equivalent of Sandhurst as the star at its concert for the centenary of the birth of General Eisenhower, the late president. The future army commanders and their teachers loved it, singing along with Dylan's Vietnam-era sarcasm. "We try to expose the cadets to a broad range of events," explained William Yosi, the arts director.

Dylan is a figure who has had an important impact. But the idea of the singer wailing "like a rolling stone" under the banners of the 101st Airborne Division was too much for the faithful. "Weird," "bizarre," said Lucian Truscott, who dropped out of the military to denounce West Point in his book *Dress Grey*. "The idea that they'd introduce Bob



Dylan into that is amazing." All this could be taken as confirmation that the 1960s have been sanitised, and the decade packaged for a re-run in the 1990s, minus the bitterness, drugs and bad hygiene.

This month's European fashion shows have certainly borrowed from the era, but the times may be a-changing even faster than Dylan might think, at least in New York. This autumn in Manhattan, the 1960s have been overtaken by the 1970s as one

fashion arbiter has just defined it. The boutiques of Greenwich Village are awash in platform shoes, black singers are growing those bushy afro hairstyles again, and clubs are renaming themselves discos and holding Saturday Night Fever nights where everyone tries to emulate John Travolta. Even Barney's, the establishment men's shop, has given in to what had been written off as the "ugly decade".

"We're re-evaluating the beauty of certain Seventies clichés such as platform shoes, wild prints and that tidy, pulled-together look," said Simon Doonan, Barney's creative director.

More than aesthetics seem to be driving the fascination for the 1970s. As the mood in America has darkened with recession, opinion polls and commentators are diagnosing a return to the malaise that has afflicted the country in the 1970s. A new verb has even been coined — "to carterise" — as in President Jimmy Carter. It means to lose your authority through excessive dithering. Hardly a pundit has resisted

applying it to Mr Bush for his performance over the budget.

At least Mr Bush can take solace from not being identified with the 1980s, which have been truly relegated to the rubbish bin of history. "The 1980s were a garbage decade — glitz, fake glamour, false promises," pronounced Faith Popcorn, a New York trend analyst whose clients include politicians and big manufacturing companies. "More than junk bonds, it was junk thinking," she said. Carolyn Heilbrunn has just published the first anti-1980s book, called *The Worst Years of Our Lives*.

All this talk of decade-hopping is worrying more serious thinkers. Todd Gitlin, a California university professor famous for his views on the corrupting influence of television believes that the decade mania "is a shortcut to thinking about what is going on in society". Another professor has just equated the trashing of the 1980s "to talking about your ex-husband a day after the divorce".

For those who would prefer

not to forget the end of yuppie and Ronald Reagan, the *Ernst & Young* company has just produced an "80s edition" of its board game. Here are some samples: "What is the first name of Oliver North's wife? (Reagan). Which of Ronald Reagan's wishes was said by the thought their black cook was his mother until the age of 10? (Michael). What Democratic hopeful planted his garden with eggplant, cucumbers and gypsy peppers? (Michael Dukakis — Who?)"

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Andreotti held talks with Mrs Thatcher at Chequers

Benazir Bhutto ends election campaign on upsurge of popularity

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN LAHORE

CAMPAIGNING in Pakistan's fifth general election ends officially at midnight tonight in a mood of uncertainty and anxiety over the possibility of military rule in the crucial months ahead.

Few observers expect the new government to last anything like a full term, regardless of who wins. Benazir Bhutto, who was dismissed as prime minister on August 6 when her popularity was at its lowest ebb in 20 months of power, has staged a comeback and could be within striking distance of returning to office after Wednesday's poll.

Her Pakistan People's Party, together with three small allied parties, could emerge as the single largest block in parliament, but without an overall majority. It would then be up to a large number of rival parties to form a coalition to keep her in power, a task that the army will undoubtedly assist. The odds are against her returning to power, even if the military were to allow it after supporting her dismissal.

Asif Zardari, Miss Bhutto's husband, who is in police custody in Karachi on charges of kidnapping and extortion, stands a good chance of winning at least one of the two constituencies he is contesting in his first foray into politics. He, too, has benefited politically from the acting administration's heavy-handed tactics.

If anti-Bhutto parties do form the next government, both Miss

Bhutto and Mr Zardari can expect an intensified legal drive against them on charges of corruption. The objective will be to bar Miss Bhutto from politics, something that could bring severe criticism from the United States and other big aid donors.

The eight-party Islamic Democratic Alliance is striving for a straight win over Miss Bhutto in the 207 Muslim seats being contested. The Sind-based Mohajir Qaumi Movement whose 14 MPs gave their crucial support to Miss Bhutto after the 1988 poll, will this time support her rivals. To win, she will therefore have to do substantially better than last time, when she captured 93 seats on a popularity wave after fighting against 11 years of military rule.

She remains the most charismatic politician in the country, the only one who has consistently attracted huge crowds in a campaign dampened by persistent rumours of a military takeover or postponement of the elections. Many politicians have refused to invest heavily in their campaigns because of fears that the new government, whoever runs it, will soon collapse in political turmoil.

The military favours the creation of a "national" government that would include MPs from the People's Party. The generals believe that, once it is clear that Miss Bhutto is not returning to power, it will be possible to split her party. A government headed

by the Islamic Democratic Alliance would then have a better chance of survival. The army is contemptuous of the performance of the caretaker government installed after Miss Bhutto was dismissed, and it has progressively distanced itself from its attempts to destroy Miss Bhutto as a political force.

The government's primary objective was to discredit the former prime minister in special disqualification courts set up under laws promulgated during the Zia dictatorship. Instead, the tactic created a wave of sympathy due to widespread disgust at the blatantly partisan tactics of a supposedly neutral acting government, whose cabinet comprised Miss Bhutto's most committed political foes.

Several leading politicians of both main camps are fighting close-run battles in their own constituencies, and the post-election scene could be radically altered if they are ousted. Assessments by both sides of their likely performance could also be disrupted by a low voter turnout after a campaign that has been devoid of any issues, other than being a simple referendum on the dismissal of the government. Even Chaudhry Mustafa Jatoi, the Sindh feudal landlord installed as acting prime minister, is in danger of losing his National Assembly seat.

Tactics backfire, page 13



Tearful meeting: Kim Jung Un, the mother of a South Korean woman student serving a five-year prison sentence for illegally visiting North Korea last year, is overcome with emotion at the unexpected release by the South Korean authorities of Moon Ik-hwan, a 72-year-old South Korean Presbyterian pastor, serving a seven-year sentence for illegally visiting North Korea (Renter

reports from Seoul). Mr Moon, a respected dissident and religious figure, was arrested in April 1989 after his illegal trip to Pyongyang, during which he met President Kim Il Sung of North Korea. His release from a hospital in the southwestern town of Choeju, where he was receiving a check-up, was seen as a conciliatory move to further talks with North Korea.

Malaysia premier in close run poll

FROM REUTERS IN KUALA LUMPUR

AN OPPOSITION alliance was running neck and neck with Malaysia's ruling coalition in first results of parliamentary elections, officials said last night.

The ten-member ruling coalition, headed by Mahathir Mohamed, the prime minister, and the opposition alliance headed by his arch-rival and former finance minister, Razaleigh Hamzah, had won ten seats each, while two independent candidates gained one seat each. Mr Razaleigh said: "I feel good. I think we will form the next government and take quite a number of states."

All the initial results were from the Borneo states of Sarawak and Sabah. A total of 180 parliamentary seats, and 351 seats in the legislative assemblies of 11 of Malaysia's 13 states, are being contested.

All the ten seats won so far by the opposition in Sabah state came from the tribally based, predominantly Christian Bersatu Sabah party which defected from Dr Mahathir's coalition last Monday. The multi-racial coalition needs to win 90 seats to form the government and 120 to gain a two-thirds majority — needed to push through key bills in parliament.

Analysts say that the election, called a year ahead of schedule, poses the biggest test yet for the ruling National Front coalition. The analysts had expected Dr Mahathir, aged 64, who took office in 1981, to return to power for a third term but said he could be denied a two-thirds majority.

Dr Mahathir campaigned for continuity and stability to ensure economic progress, while the opposition urged voters to "save Malaysia" from human rights abuses and corruption.

About eight million of Malaysia's 17.4 million population were eligible to vote in the polls, the eighth since independence in 1957. Officials said that despite rain in some areas, up to 70 per cent of voters turned up to cast ballots in 14,645 polling stations. "The turnout this morning was quite encouraging, being the weekend," one official said.

Officials said that apart from complaints by some voters that their names were missing from the voting list, balloting was incident-free. The polls were monitored by Commonwealth observers.

Khmer Rouge terror keeps up pressure on Phnom Penh

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN BANGKOK

THE Khmer Rouge have an expression for the kind of attack they made on a train outside the southern port city, Kompong Som, last week, in which 50 people were killed.

They call it "oxidising iron" — "spreading dust across the enemy's infrastructure", according to a recent defector. The aim is to destabilise the Vietnam-backed government here by hitting at its lines of communication and killing or capturing its officials.

It was the third attack on a train this year, and particularly embarrassing for the Phnom Penh government because it happened

only eight miles east of Cambodia's main port. The tactic was classic. Mines were detonated under two flatbed cars, then the Khmer Rouge closed in and opened fire with shotguns and other small arms.

Although details are still sketchy, many more than the reported 50 people are likely to have been killed. The flatbed cars are supposed to run empty but those travelling across Cambodia this week were crammed with people carrying goods for sale in the capital.

Mines are a favourite Khmer Rouge weapon, from the small ones that blow off a limb to the powerful version, used in this attack. "We say that the mine is a

tireless soldier," a Khmer Rouge soldier told his captors. "It does not need food, or sleep and it is always standing sentinel."

In another incident last week, 400 heavily armed Khmer Rouge fighters entered a village on the strategic Highway Three linking the capital with another port, Kampot, east of Kompong Som.

The guerrillas told the villagers the Vietnamese army had not left Cambodia. They said the villagers should not allow their sons to enlist in the army, but should join the "liberation struggle of the national army" of the Khmer Rouge. At gunpoint, the guerrillas "cleaned out the village of rice and foodstuffs".

The futility of resistance was

demonstrated by Tap Jon, a small farmer in northwest Cambodia. Another group of guerrillas entered the village of So Nichon, 30 miles north of Siem Reap, and demanded rice.

"They had come several times before and we could not afford to keep handing it over as we are poor ourselves and need to eat," the farmer said. He is in Siem Reap hospital with leg and arm wounds. When he refused to give any rice, the Khmer Rouge opened fire, killing his wife, wounding him and shooting his 20-year-old daughter in the foot. Her leg was later amputated at the knee.

The Khmer Rouge do not always use violence. At times they pay for rice with gold or American

dollars. Sometimes they show films on portable video equipment; or they kill local officials; or they release officials once they have been "re-educated".

The overall Khmer Rouge leader, Pol Pot, is said to have ordered a "velvet glove" approach to win popular support in rural areas in western Cambodia. Ta Mok, the one-legged Khmer Rouge military commander in northern Cambodia, believes in force and terror, which contributed to a million deaths when the Khmer Rouge ruled Cambodia from 1975 to late 1978. Already 120,000 rural people have been displaced by Khmer Rouge activity.

As the international community tries to push the warring factions

to a settlement, the Khmer Rouge and Phnom Penh are preparing new defences for when the wet season ends next month.

Diplomatic sources here say the Phnom Penh army, which was plagued by indiscipline a few months ago, has improved.

The parlous state of the economy is perhaps the biggest threat facing the government as Soviet aid is cut back. A West European diplomat, who visits Phnom Penh frequently, said: "The Khmer Rouge cannot take over the country by military means. But they can do so if there is a collapse of the economy and a vacuum at the centre. The Khmer Rouge is the only organised group that could fill the vacuum."

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The Thatcher factor at work

Ronald Butt

The Conservative defeat at Eastbourne, was hardly needed as evidence of the inclination of a majority of voters to see the end of Mrs Thatcher's government. The public mood has been clearly charted in opinion polls for at least 18 months and has been unambiguously displayed to the party's constituency workers by disgruntled former Tory voters. The loss of Eastbourne could, therefore, be dismissed as a one-day drama revealing nothing of new significance, especially as the seat, like so many others captured from the Tories by centre parties in by-elections, will almost certainly be retaken at the general election.

As Kenneth Baker, the Tory chairman, was quick to point out, the Alliance captured Ryedale in 1986 by overcoming a similar Tory majority, and lost it in 1987 when the Tories won their third term. If statistical comparisons were mechanically applied to Eastbourne it could be glibly asserted that the Tories will yet again overcome their reverses when the general election comes.

Yet the Eastbourne defeat is not to be so easily dismissed, since it has taken place against a political background fundamentally different from that existing at the time of Ryedale. The government then was in bad odour, suffering from the aftermath of the Westland affair and from the protests of voters unhappy with the slow speed of recovery from a recession that had been the temporary price of overcoming inflation. Unemployment still remained at over three million. Yet the public was deeply, disaffected of Labour whose self-reform had gone nowhere near as far in 1986 as it has now. The third-party option offered by the Alliance, then in its heyday with around a third of voters' support, therefore seemed to offer a realistic alternative to the Conservatives.

At the time of Ryedale, however, the fundamental factor that determined the Tories' 1987 general election victory was already in place: inflation was down below 3 per cent and the seeds of economic recovery and boom were well set. It was a growth economy, and the rewards for past abstinence were signalled in the 1987 pre-election budget, both by tax cuts and extra government spending. People felt better off, and they were better off. So the election was won, and in the boom that followed unemployment did, indeed, fall rapidly.

Today, with the maximum period between Eastbourne and the general election only a few months more than that between Ryedale and the election of 1987, inflation is at 10.9 per cent, recession is now only beginning to be felt (instead of being at the end of its cycle, as it was in 1986), there is deep discontent with the government's social policies (from the poll tax to the financing of public services) and people are beginning to feel worse off because of high

mortgage interest rates and rising prices.

At the same time, Labour has done so much to put its house in order that the Liberal Democrats are now no more than an optional extra facility for protest voters not yet ready to go all the way to Neil Kinnock. And he has gone so far in discarding traditional socialism that even the imprecision of so many of Labour's policies may not handicap his party as much as the Tories hope.

All this is evidence of something very like a sea-change in British politics, suggesting that the relevant comparison to be made with Eastbourne is not Ryedale but the loss of the safe Tory seat of Orpington in 1962. This is not to say that the Liberals will keep Eastbourne but that their victory may well be part of a similar political pattern to that which led to Labour's victory under Harold Wilson in 1964.

Orpington registered discontent with the Tories of voters not yet prepared to go all the way to Labour. But under Wilson's calling influence, many of them did so in the 1964 general election, though giving Labour an overall majority of only four seats. The Liberals, with some three million votes (though only nine seats), came tantalisingly in sight of holding the balance.

Something like this outcome looks increasingly in prospect for the general election, which will probably be held in 1992. (With the current mood of a section of the Labour party this could also mean an outside chance of an agreement on proportional representation.) Though most people are much better off than in 1979, that is a time not easily recalled, especially by younger voters. A voter aged 25 in 1992 will have been only 12 when Mrs Thatcher took power.

Over the past two years the government has had signals galore of the dangers over a whole range of its policies. It has shrugged them off. Warnings from those who most value its great achievements have been dismissed by Downing Street as signs of wimpishness. Justly or not, the critical public now associates this refusal to listen with Mrs Thatcher personally. It has increasingly come to regard the boom as something that most benefited the rich, and what is more the boom has ended. The question therefore follows, has she become more a liability than the great asset she was?

Yet there is no prospect of her standing down, and there are too many hotly contested issues in the Conservative party (Europe among them) for there to be a peaceful agreement on a successor if she did. The Thatcher factor therefore will determine the outcome of the election, and only Mrs Thatcher herself can determine whether it is a winning or a losing card. Above all she needs both scepticism about past dogma and a willingness to listen.

...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

"TOO MANY" painters today base their work on a love of art rather than a love of life...

Donald Young (1924-90). My Uncle Don was not one of life's obvious high-livers. A lonely working-class boyhood behind him, he turned away from one class and never sought entrance to another. He stammered, and didn't like parties. Anyway, he had Joyce, and a few good friends, and chess.

He wouldn't sell his paintings and found promoting them unendurable. He just painted: from the day he left art school in 1947 he was painting, fretting that he wasn't. The house in Beckenham was stacked, floor to ceiling: front room and back rooms, walls, stairs and corridors... four decades of Don's work. When he died there was a painting on the easel. It was all he cared for. He was not listening for the clink of the champagne glass or the braying of modish approval. Nobody cultivated him, few believed in him. Except my Auntie Joyce.

It cannot have been easy for a butcher's daughter to bring home a shy youth, a lighter man's son who had won a scholarship to Chelsea School of Art but whose work was hardly what my grandparents considered "art". Angular daubings with funny noses, whimsical things yet painfully intense.

I remember the whispers: "Joyce can draw. Her birds really look like birds. But she doesn't draw much now." My aunt, a schoolteacher, became the breadwinner.

They never had children. It was just Joyce and Don, the goldfish, Snowball the cat - the late Snowball - and, each year, more paintings. Now Don has gone, leaving Joyce, a house full of paintings and a new cat. The cat was indifferent to the paintings. The fish is no more. I mentioned the fish to Joyce. "It would have been his birthday this month," she said. The new cat died last week.

Joyce is 70. She has started a complete cataloguing of Don's work. As she points out, when a future age discovers Don, it will matter. Meanwhile she is spreading the word. She rang me to say she had arranged an exhibition at the Fairfield Halls

in Croydon that I must see before it closes next Friday.

I went. Nobody in the foyer knew about it. They directed me to the Croydon Art Society exhibition - where they had not heard of it either. "There's more upstairs," someone said, "but I don't recall the name Young." I went upstairs. The paintings (of the painstaking school), including one of the old Croydon airport control tower, were not by Don. I turned to go, glancing down an un-signposted corridor hung with more pictures.

And spotted Snowball - my favourite painting, where he is a blizzard blur, tangling a ball of wool that grandma and Joyce are trying to wind: a wonderful picture, to me.

Joyce had arranged the whole show. Things Don had written had been typed, and posted up with the pictures. Wall cards told you about Don's career. Each painting was titled, and some of his best were there: the chess game "when Joyce won despite non-adherence to elementary principles". And two powerful self-portraits. After an hour with them, Don's presence seemed to grow.

Sometimes people passed the corridor and, for Don's sake, I would somebody - anybody - to stop and admire. Nobody even glanced. Snowball, still tangled in his wool, winked across at humorous figures sketched in oils in Don's teasing way. Could he see? Did he mind that nobody looked?

Through glass doors two elderly men discussed Croydon airport control tower, of which they approved. "Yes," said one in a bow-tie blazer. "A lot of work has gone into that. You can see each stone." He peered towards Don's territory. "What's over there?"

I heard Don's stammer, behind my shoulder: "Don't bother!" - almost pleading - "you honestly won't like it." "Don't bother," said the bow-tie man's friend. "Picasso sort of stuff." They turned and left. Snowball resumed his game.

Don smiled with relief. He did not need those people. He only needed Joyce... and Snowball, who was concentrating on the wool and unconcerned with art. Don hated art.

Anatole Lieven sees this week's election doing nothing to put Pakistan's house in order

Will Benazir outwit the generals?

Pakistan's general election on Wednesday, precipitated by the dismissal of Benazir Bhutto's government in August, is unlikely to turn out as the generals hoped. They had reckoned on voters turning away from her Pakistan People's Party by the million because of her administration's inept performance and the desertion of many of her MPs in the face of the army's show of strength.

In the event, defections have been few, and barring massive rigging by the "caretaker" government, the PPP will almost certainly retain the largest single party. Popular disillusionment with alleged PPP corruption has largely been cancelled out by public anger over the manner of the government's dismissal.

Concrete evidence of corruption has proved hard to find, but Miss Bhutto's husband, Asif Zardari, now under arrest, is vulnerable. To strengthen his hand against both Miss Bhutto and an admirably impartial judiciary, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has taken the power to transfer any

case from any court in Pakistan to another, at any stage in the proceedings: if Mr Zardari looks like getting off, the president will simply find another judge.

Should the PPP come out on top on Wednesday, some forces in the establishment are reported to have asked Miss Bhutto to cede the prime ministership to someone more acceptable to the army, in return for the charges against her husband being dropped.

That would be a compromise acceptable to many PPP supporters, but Miss Bhutto is unlikely to agree. The generals would not allow her to dominate a government from behind the scenes.

Contrary to popular belief, the deep hostility to Miss Bhutto in the establishment stems only partly from her being a woman. "Islamist" ideas do not yet predominate in the army high command and senior bureaucracy, which retain vestiges of the British-Indian tradition. More important is hereditary dislike of her fiery and angry at her interference in military and bureaucratic appointments. But perhaps the

main reason for her dismissal is her support for the native Sindhis of her home province in the violence against Mohajir immigrants from post-independence India that has left hundreds dead.

Given the weakness of the Islamic Democratic Alliance, the main opposition to the PPP, the army may have no choice but to seek a compromise with Miss Bhutto if it does not want to take over directly. This could perhaps be achieved by Miss Bhutto's agreement to an institutionalised government role for the army through a national security council that would deal with internal conflicts such as that in Sind.

Senior PPP members have indicated that such a council would be acceptable, but many party workers, especially in Sind, would regard it as a betrayal. Some of Miss Bhutto's advisers say that in view of the internal divisions of any non-PPP government, and appalling economic problems that can only be aggravated by the high price of oil, the PPP should stay in opposition and wait for the army to call it back.

If the elections are rigged, or a PPP victory is brushed aside, Pakistan could suffer a cut in American aid. Miss Bhutto's mother, Begum Nusrat Bhutto - who once fiercely denounced "American imperialism" - is currently in Washington lobbying for support for the PPP. Well aware of the danger, General Aslam Beg, the army chief of staff, recently denounced "superpower interference" in Pakistan's internal affairs.

To some extent, however, President Bush is in the generals' hands. Just as Washington swallowed General Zia's rule because of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, so Mr Bush needs Pakistani support against Iraq. The purse strings can hardly be cut after the generals' offer of tens of thousands of troops for a pan-Islamic force, should they be required.

Pakistan's underlying problem is that both the existing political blocs, and the military, are based on family or sectional interests that have proved incapable of generating co-ordinated efforts to develop the country.

Even General Zia, supposedly an autocrat, had to squander the bonanza of American aid during the Afghan war to buy support from the political classes. The chance to develop the country's infrastructure under the iron heel of military dictatorship was lost, perhaps for good.

Without a co-ordinated effort, however, Pakistan faces a grim future. By the year 2000, the population will grow by almost 50 per cent. Already unemployment among educated youth is the biggest engine of conflict in Sind; the country's farmers could not feed such numbers. The scale of the problem, and the failure of existing political society, is likely to foster belief in what might be called an Islamic-fascist solution, particularly among junior officers who might eventually throw off their ingrained obedience to their superiors. If Pakistan were ethnically homogenous, that might work. In a nation riven as it is, it looks more like a recipe for quick suicide in place of the creeping rot offered by Miss Bhutto and the other politicians.

Something stirring, if only for our great-grandchildren



Bernard Levin praises plans to plant a new forest in the Midlands—and invites suggestions for its name

If you were seeking the least romantic man in the realm, you would look for him first among the ranks of the spokesmen of Leicestershire county council, and you would be reasonably certain that your search would not be in vain.

What, then, would you think if you read, coming from precisely that source, these words: "It gives people a visionary feel. A visionary feel? From Leicestershire county council? Nay, from a spokesman for Leicestershire county council? I think you would at least be sufficiently intrigued to learn more about this official and his vision."

But when you discovered that this particular vision encompassed, so great would be your astonishment that you would inevitably think you were being hoaxed. For a recent article in this paper, by Craig Seton, has revealed that there is a serious and apparently feasible proposal to plant in the Midlands an entirely new forest, 150 square miles in area, which would be bigger than Birmingham and Coventry put together and would stretch lengthwise from Uttoxeter to Leicester and widthwise from Lichfield to Burton-on-Trent.

If that does not engage your imagination until your hair stands on end, you must be bald. But it is not a hoax: no one could possibly believe that the Countryside Commission, from which the news emanates, would indulge in such impropriety. Moreover, the environment secretary has given the proposal his imprimatur, and—rather more valuable than his imprimatur—enough money to see that the thing is done.

Top-people litter louts

Mountaineer Chris Bonington has identified the ultimate high-altitude challenge: the ascent of Mount Everest by an expedition equipped with enough refuse bags to clear it of discarded rubbish.

The conqueror of Everest and many other Himalayan peaks is appalled by what he calls the "thoughtless desecration" of mountains the world over by climbers who leave a trail of debris in their wake. "Everest is the highest junkyard in the world," he says. "It is littered with discarded tins, tins, food and empty oxygen tanks. There is so much up there that a full-scale expedition will be needed to remove it."

Although admitting that he is not entirely blameless, Bonington hopes that by highlighting the state of Everest he will shame fellow mountaineers into disposing of their waste.

He cites the tins, bottles and plastic containers strewn around the base camp at the foot of the Diamir face of Nanga Parbat in the Himalayas, which he has just visited while making a BBC television series. He took photographs to identify the nationalities of the culprits by the labels on the packaging and has sent copies to all the major mountaineering magazines in the world.

"Climbers should take the trouble to crush and bury tins and collect their litter for disposal when they get down," he says. "When you come to a beautiful, untouched place you should leave it in the state in which you found it. Unless we start changing our

The Countryside Commission has scoured the land to find an area sufficiently short of trees for the plan, and found five, two of which are sufficiently romantic already, based as they are on, respectively, Sherwood Forest and the Forest of Arden ("Where they felled the tree carelessly, as they did in the golden world"). But the present site, which it seems has fewer trees than most of the rest of the country, carried the day.

And what a day: I can hardly wait for it to dawn, though I shall not see it completed, for the planting alone will take 30 years, and the forest will not come to full maturity for 100. That fact in itself stirs the blood, for to think of a project that will not be finished in one's own lifetime, or indeed in that of two or three generations younger, is a marvelously calming experience. It has that quality primarily because it is based on nature, which cannot be hurried, unlike man-made things; there are many huge projects, such as manned flights to the sun, which will take many decades in the creating, but they will not have the patina that nature, and nature alone, can provide. Why, one day, even that foolish old dream of digging a tunnel between Britain and France will be attempted, though of course it will prove a white elephant and lose all the billions it costs.

No such fate will befall the forest, even though it is a project

initiated and cultivated by man. There are man-made dangers, of course; already there is talk of "assisting tourism" and the idea has even been described as "a draw to quality investment". So far from assisting tourism, there should be signs on all the roads leading to any part of the new forest, in all the languages of the earth, to the effect that it is overrun by particularly savage wolves and exceptionally poisonous snakes, and no investment of any kind should be permitted if there is the slightest possibility of it producing a profit. There is also the inevitable chatter about the forest being "part of the nation's contribution to combating global warming", but that is harmless and can be ignored.

The prospectus says that half of the area will be under trees, the other half comprising fields, villages and towns. I am uneasy about the towns; suppose they looked like Birmingham or smelt like Burton-on-Trent? Let us insist that there shall be no village with more than, say, a thousand inhabitants, and for safety's sake none of these should be less than 10 miles from any other. "Some commercial timber operations" are mentioned; I am not implacably opposed to these - after all, clearing fallen trees and logging crowded ones are part of forestry conservation - but I insist that the business is scrupulously run and very closely monitored.



DIARY

Tiger, who will make his stage debut playing Crab from *Two Gentlemen of Verona*. Ignoring the old theatre maxim that one should never play opposite children or animals, Clive Francis, as Lance the clown, will recite to him.

Scrumdown

Peter Hain, scourge of all things South African, suggested on this page on Saturday that the de Klerk reforms warrant a trial resumption of sporting links with the outside world, provided the South African teams are truly multiracial.

Is it a genuine change of heart, or one dictated by political expediency? Richard Evans, prospective Conservative candidate for Neath - which Hain is to contest for Labour - suspects the latter. Winner of three national championships last season, Neath is to rugby what Liverpool is to soccer, and Evans says Hain has been

All that, though, is nothing but the practical aspect of what is intended. The important part is ours - ours to wonder at, and to imagine ourselves, or our great-grandchildren, wandering through a forest that men had conceived and planned, and that nature, needing no further instructions, had completed. Think of the birds, for a start; they will not need any guidance, let alone thoughts of quality investment, to take up residence. Look up; if you are sharp-eyed enough, you may see a nest, but in any case you will hear them singing, and in any case you will see the light on the leaves and branches, in an infinite variety of combinations, every one a thing of beauty. (I was delighted to learn, years ago, that nature has arranged matters so that on every tree every leaf is assured a measure of sunshine; none is permitted to be hidden from the light altogether. I believe that Corot was a first painter who made use of this amazing truth.)

Rabbits and hares, foxes and squirrels will abound, and if the human beings in the area have enough sense to leave strictly alone the habitat (now inelegantly called the biosphere, or even the eco-system, but who would think to plant a tree, let alone a forest, in an eco-system?) their numbers will stabilise, so that myxomatosis will be needed only for the tourists, should the alarming signposts not deter them.

getting a lot of doorstep flak from rugby supporters (that means everyone from six months up) who accuse him of being partly responsible for denying them visits by the Springboks.

"His sudden change of heart dates from coming down here, knocking on doors and being confronted by people - already against him for being an outsider - who believe that politics and sport should never be allowed to mix. He is now going overboard to convince people he has shed his old convictions."

Not worth nicking

Michael Robinson, former keeper of pictures at the National Maritime Museum and author of a new two-volume catalogue of the works of the two Van de Velde, fears that one of the best-known pictures attributed to the Dutch artists, hanging in the Queen's House at Greenwich, is not original.

The Royal visit to the fleet in the Thames estuary, 5 June 1672, was commissioned by Charles II from the Dutch father-and-son team. It was acquired by the Greenwich museum in the 1930s and described as the original, but Robinson, whose catalogue of the Van de Velde is the result of 60 years of research, says: "My feeling now is that it is not quite well enough painted."

This might reduce its value, but we are pretty relaxed about it."

Such a laid-back attitude is commendable. London art dealer Rodney Omet, who specialises in maritime pictures, says: "If that is the case, instead of half a million, it probably would not fetch more than £100,000."

Deux livres de livres

The quintessentially British notion of a small-country town with a choice of second-hand bookshops has been exported to France. Richard Booth, who set up the first of 25 book emporiums at Hay-on-Wye 30 years ago, has moved to Montolieu in the Pyrenees. To the delight of Gallic buyers and browsers alike he has just opened, on two days a week, the hamlet's first second-hand bookshop.

"The French have yet to experience a book town such as Hay-on-Wye," says Booth. "I hope other booksellers will follow me to Montolieu - indeed, six or seven have already made soundings." He also hopes that other small shops that have nothing to do with books will follow. "In Hay-on-Wye, there are eight times more small shops than in neighbouring towns of similar size."

Neil Kinnock's lip-stretching roar of laughter when an enraged Margaret Thatcher branded him a crypto-communist at question time last week was not the masterful gesture of disdain identified by the parliamentary scribes. It seems that in the day the Labour leader never actually heard the slur. It was only when he returned to his office, and his face resumed its normal composure, that he was told what she had said.



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PAY AND THE PUBLIC

The government has a private sector pay policy. ERM is its name. The exchange rate mechanism inhibits devaluation of the currency, and so British firms who pay their employees too much will not be able to compete with foreign firms. For Michael Howard, the employment secretary, the trick is to make people see that pay restraint is in their interest because their own jobs are at risk. As policies go, this just about passes muster, at the cost of some oversimplification of the real world. The same cannot be said of the government's policy towards public sector pay.

This policy does not rely on a pay norm. Reports that the government was aiming for a 7 per cent pay target for its employees this winter are exaggerated, though it wants negotiators to assume a 7 per cent inflation rate. The policy for the public sector, Mr Howard said yesterday, is based on cash limits. Too much pay will mean cuts and lost jobs.

During this decade, the policy has been reasonably successful in holding down the pay of public employees. In the year to April, central government earnings rose by only 7 per cent (though earnings in local government went up by 11 per cent). This compared with 9.7 per cent in the private sector. Since 1981, and the end of comparability, public sector pay has steadily lost ground to that in the private sector. But the cost of that limited success has been enormous.

What happens in the public sector is that monopoly unions sit down with monopoly employers to construct cosy deals. Sometimes, the price of a high settlement is a declining level of service. At others, they are content with a more modest settlement, hanging onto the quiet life at the expense of changing work practices to improve services. In many public sector organisations, investment is repeatedly cut to make room for centrally-determined pay awards. Pay rises as a proportion of total costs. In consequence, more and more public expenditure does not buy correspondingly improved public services. Moreover, in the

public sector, decisions as to who should be paid relatively more, and who relatively less, become distorted by politics.

The government always finds scope to pay more to the police. Establishing its law-and-order credentials matters, even though police effectiveness in doubt. Firemen enjoy a formula linking them to the top quarter of average earnings; even this, *The Times* reports today, fails to dissuade some of them from defrauding the public through spurious injury claims. And any group that takes industrial action for long enough, boasts a plausible cause and has a cogent spokesman can be sure of partial victory, as the ambulancemen proved earlier this year.

Meanwhile, senior civil servants, whose cause is not popular, are paid too little and made too secure. Awards from the pay review bodies, for doctors and nurses, judges and the armed forces, are for ever being repaid to keep down the cost to the Exchequer. The illusion of restraint is achieved, but only at a cost to the morale of those involved and to the integrity of the ministerial conjurers. This is no way to run a railroad, or a post office, or a central government.

Only the naive believe that a perfect policy for public sector pay exists. But the ingredients for the best practicable policy are clear, and should be entirely acceptable to present ministers. The further privatisation goes, and the more competition to which privatised organisations are exposed, the better. Firmness in negotiation over the total sums available should be matched with flexibility in rewarding groups who genuinely contribute to greater efficiency. Market criteria such as recruitment, retention and motivation should be given priority over political considerations; that means a continuing devolution of pay negotiations away from the national level.

Above all, ministers should keep negotiations at arm's length. Those who cannot keep their hands off invariably end up with burnt fingers.

IN SYRIA'S SHADOW

When Lebanese and Syrian troops finally forced General Aoun to flee the presidential palace last weekend Lebanon's president, Elias Hrawi, proclaimed a "new dawn" and promised an ending to Lebanon's 15 years of civil war. Yet even before yesterday's assassination of the prominent Christian leader Dany Chamoun and his family, the dawn was already stained Lebanon's characteristic blood-red. Among other atrocities, Syrian forces last week murdered around 200 of the general's captured troops, putting into perspective President Hrawi's demand that the French embassy surrender General Aoun to face trial for war crimes.

Last week's operation, intended to be a surgical strike, was successful in its main aim of ending General Aoun's hopeless 18-month crusade to drive Syria from Lebanon. The barricades along the Green Line dividing Christian east Beirut from the Muslim west have already come down. But all surgery in Lebanon has a way of developing post-operative complications.

Will this happen again? General Aoun's departure removes one barrier to unifying the country along the lines of the constitutional compromise agreed under Arab League sponsorship, at the Saudi resort of Taif a year ago. But the gain should not be exaggerated. General Aoun's challenge has long been a fiction. The Christians controlled only a fraction of Lebanon and General Aoun only a small area within it. Military victory over 40,000 Syrian troops was never within his reach, unless he could draw western powers into the fray. This year, his men have devoted most energy to fighting the militia of his Christian rival, Dr Samir Geagea.

President Hrawi's proclaimed priorities are bringing all Beirut under central government control and dismantling Lebanon's militias. That will be difficult. Lebanon's political system and civil institutions, from rubbish collection to security, have been all but destroyed. There have been no elections for 18 years and the real political leaders are those who head the militias: the Druze, the rival

Christian groups and, among the Shia, the mutually hostile forces of Hezbollah and the Amal militia led by Nabih Berri. Other assorted gunmen backed by Syria roam Beirut.

President Hrawi would also like to establish his government as something more than Syria's puppet. But the hard truth is that he can only do so with President Assad's tacit permission. To assert the government's authority, the weak Lebanese army needs Syrian backing. Syria enjoys unwelcome freedom of manoeuvre in present circumstances. Iraq's invasion of Kuwait has given Syria, as Iraq's enemy, temporary *carte blanche* in Lebanon. Iran, which finances the Hezbollah, is in supportive mood. Israel's ability to react is constrained by the need to maintain as low a profile as possible. So Syria is free for the moment to use its power to incorporate Lebanon, as President Assad has always wanted, into "Greater Syria".

Realpolitik may none the less incline President Assad to a more circumspect exercise of Syrian hegemony. That is not only because improved relations with the west, which supports the Taif agreement, are important to Syria. The Beirut militias are not the only forces with which the Syrians would have to contend if they contemplated annexation. Iraq, which supported General Aoun, would encourage the 10,000-strong Palestinian militia in Sidon, just to the south of Beirut, to turn an outright bid for control of Lebanon into a bloodbath. Finally, a revival of Lebanese prosperity would help the Syrian economy.

If Syria permits it, the Taif accords have a chance. Having buried more than 100,000 dead, most Lebanese would prefer any order, even that imposed under Syria's shadow, to continued fighting. The accords provide a basis for civil peace. They go some way to meeting the grievances of Lebanon's Muslim majority by diluting Christian political hegemony, while providing the Christians with safeguards. For the moment peace, or near-peace, in Lebanon would be prize enough, even brokered by Syria. President Hrawi must work with the forces available to him, and the devil he knows.

JUSTICE V LAWYERS

In principle, all are equal before the law, but in Britain, too many people are deterred from seeking any form of legal redress. Legal fees, unpredictable in advance of any case, can turn out to be crippling. Those who qualify for legal aid from the state have their fees paid in full. Those with incomes just above the legal aid threshold receive not a penny. The case for making better use of public money is clear.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, has responded by setting up the most wide-ranging review of legal aid that the scheme has seen in its 40 years of existence. He intends to tackle two problems: the inability of many middle-income people to afford litigation, and the rapidly escalating cost to government of the legal aid scheme.

Michael Murphy, of the London School of Economics, calculated last year that since 1979 as many as 14.8 million more people, or 3.5 million households, had become ineligible for civil legal aid. Yet while deserving people fail to qualify for legal aid, the scheme's cost has doubled over the past five years to £745 million gross (some £600 million net). This rate of increase is higher than that for public spending on health and social security. Because legal aid is demand-led — that is, available as of right to anyone below the financial threshold — the cost, in theory, is limitless.

Spending without a ceiling does not, of course, endear itself to the Treasury. Hence the pressure on Lord Mackay to opt for a cap on the legal aid budget. He has already warned that the scheme is not an "unconditional blank cheque from the taxpayer". None the less, like spending on prisons, legal aid cannot easily be capped. How could a government justify the inequity of supporting one litigant while

another, on the same income, and with as good a case, goes without? Or of cutting off legal aid in October because the scheme has run out of money for that year?

The government, through the legal aid scheme, is a powerful consumer and should be able to demand better value for money from the legal profession. In crown courts, for instance, lawyers are paid by the hour, giving them an incentive to let cases drag on for as long as possible. In magistrates' courts, there is now a fixed legal aid fee for certain types of work. This could be extended to a large section of crown court work, albeit with exceptions for the more time-consuming cases.

The review is also, wisely, considering making legal aid more widely available in some areas and less in others. For instance, it may recommend that anyone, regardless of means, should receive legal aid for personal injury cases. Such an extension would cost little, since most legally-aided personal injury actions are successful, and so recover their costs. The review may also recommend providing legal aid in divorce cases only when all other avenues have been exhausted. If both these changes were accepted, legal aid would be channelled to those who need it more.

The government will never be able fully to compensate the middle-income losers in Britain's legal system. Only the lawyers can help to ensure that all those who have a good case in law can afford to pursue it. Private fees have to come down. Wasteful double-manning must be abolished. The review should make no bones about the inequity of restrictive practices and demand a positive contribution from the lawyers themselves. The law should serve justice, not the interests of the legal profession.

Student worry over poll tax

From Miss Harriet Emerson

Sir, It would appear that recovery of poll tax debts is to become yet another burden on the already overstretched funding of initially, the Scottish education system and potentially that of the whole of the UK.

Whilst we must hope that the Scottish Education Department (SED) is successful in its attempt to challenge the validity of regional councils arresting tuition fees (report, October 18), there exists considerable doubt even in some legal minds as to whether this may be achieved.

Should the arrangements be upheld as valid then students will be subject to more draconian measures than any other poll tax defaulter. Moreover such a result would effectively transfer the onus for pursuit of the community charge on to the individual educational establishments. This would be a wholly inappropriate function for such bodies and would involve them in costly administration they can ill afford.

It is impossible to predict whether a situation of this sort would in reality translate to the halting of an individual's academic participation until the debt was settled or mean more serious underfunding for the educational provisions of students overall. It would certainly increase the already great difficulty in providing adequate education from a declining unit resource within individual institutions.

Natural justice would suggest that if educational material may not be used in warrant cases to cover poll tax debts, tuition fees should be beyond arrestment.

Possibly the most alarming danger should arrestments occur is the precedent that would then be set for further debt collection by this procedure. The Government's system of student financial support involving student loans and loss of social security benefits by the majority means that student debt is increasing at an alarming rate. As such, should the SED's challenge fail we will surely see an increased drop out amongst students as the value of education in Britain is still further undermined.

Yours faithfully,
HARRIET EMERSON (President, Students' Representative Council),
University of Aberdeen,
Luthall House,
50/52 College Bounds,
Aberdeen.
October 18.

God and Mammon

From the Reverend Christopher Fenton

Sir, There is too much evidence, in the New Testament as well as in the Old, about the importance of riches for us to be able to accept the "easy way out" postulated either by Mrs Jo Brogden of Lincoln Cathedral ("spirituality and commercialism do not sit happily side by side", report October 13) or by the Dean and Chapter of St Paul's Cathedral, who have said that their money-making chief executive must also go.

Jesus did not say "There is no room for God and Mammon" in his kingdom, but that we could not serve them both.

Just now and then I come across churches which are putting their spirituality on the market. They are offering what they were always meant to offer, free salvation — as opposed to cheap imitations — which people know instinctively is very costly, then, both fabric and faith are well looked after.

Yours truly,
CHRISTOPHER FENTON,
Under Down,
Ledbury, Herefordshire.
October 13.

Amateur archaeology

From Mr Andrew Selkirk

Sir, It is not just the arts that need an amateur revival (article, September 26; letters, October 5); in archaeology the situation is equally pressing.

The Council for Independent Archaeology has recently been formed to encourage independent archaeology — the archaeology independent of government funding. I am sure we would welcome the opportunity to make common cause with the Voluntary Art Network, and indeed the whole of the voluntary movement.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW SELKIRK
(Chairman),
Council for Independent Archaeology,
9 Nassington Road, NW3.

Education problems

From Mr B. V. West

Sir, If West Germany's GNP is somewhat greater than ours (which by all accounts is the case), then Dr Keith Hampson's figures on education funding (October 8) will show that the UK is spending less per capita on education than Germany.

His statement that Labour underfunding of education in 1976 caused a fall in the proportion of 18-year-olds entering higher education will not wash. As I recall, this was a period when generous funding as compared with today was available to such students, so there must have been other factors responsible.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN V. WEST,
77 Beechwood Avenue,
Woodley, Reading, Berkshire.

From the Headmaster of The Perse School, Cambridge
Sir, Now is perhaps the time to

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cheap credit and housing market

From the Director-General of the Building Societies Association

Sir, Your leader (October 17) concerning "cheap credit" seems to be based on a fundamental misunderstanding of the housing market. It suggests that in 1988 British households borrowed £42.7 billion "allegedly for the purpose of buying and improving housing", whereas they spent only £18.2 billion on housing investment and home improvements, the remaining amount being spent on consumer goods, holidays, investments and even second homes abroad.

All but a small fraction of the £42.7 billion was, indeed, spent on the purchase and improvement of housing, and of this £18.2 billion was received by house builders and those contractors engaged in home improvements.

The remaining £24.5 billion was largely received by people selling houses, for example, those inheriting the estates of their parents and elderly people moving down market on their retirement. Equity withdrawal largely results not from those taking out loans but rather from those selling houses and not purchasing new ones.

It follows from what I have said that your suggested remedies are questionable. It can hardly be an attractive approach to suggest that banks and building societies should restrain remortgaging because remortgaging is not a significant cause of equity withdrawal.

Your objective is to ensure that remortgages used to finance consumer spending are treated the same way as any other consumer loans. For tax purposes they are treated in the same way. You suggest that it is absurd that the householder using his home as collateral to buy a car should pay less for this money than ICI or Shell. I am sure that ICI or Shell can raise money on terms every bit as good as a householder, if they can offer equivalent collateral.

Surely the rate of interest on a loan must depend on the risk attaching to that loan not the use to which the loan is put, something which cannot always be ascertained?

Yours faithfully,
M. J. BOLEAT,
Director-General,
The Building Societies Association,
3 Savile Row, W1,
October 17.

From Mrs Hilary Northcroft
Sir, Thank you for bringing to attention the relationship between the housing market and the inflationary boom and for proposing measures to prevent recurrence should interest rates fall. Indeed,

banks and building societies might better be persuaded to restrain their lending were their own interest rates as their borrowers.

However, I believe that the present situation is a symptom of an underlying malignancy in our economy. Our best graduates are lured into the financial sector, where they are employed to devise and market sophisticated products, aimed at specific groups in the population, both individual and corporate, some of whom are vulnerable through lack of education.

In this instance the government's commitment to home ownership was the pointer for the target group. The equity in the property market has now been milked. It has resulted in embarrassment for the government and much individual suffering. Third World loans, credit cards and company takeovers have similarly been exhausted.

But even now a new range of products is being launched at a fresh market sector as yet untapped. In the longer term only an improvement in educational standards will reduce the opportunity for the exploitation of the gullible by the greedy.

We "winkies" are the latest target group. The good news is we are apparently proving more difficult to dupe.

Yours faithfully,
HILARY NORTHCROFT,
Balcombe Farmhouse,
Frienden,
Cranbrook, Kent.
October 18.

From Mr G. M. Wedd
Sir, The near-hysteria induced by the Budget decision in 1988 to end multiple mortgage relief five months later sucked forward latent demand which would otherwise have been spread over the following two years. Current market conditions are doing the opposite. I do not see much joy in this for the highly-borrowed.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE WEDD,
The Lodge, Church Hill,
High Littleton,
Bristol, Avon.

From Mr W. Watson
Sir, I read your editorial with great interest. The community creates the value of land. At the moment this value goes into the private purse, creating such abnormalities as you describe. Why not tax land values and let the community benefit from the value it creates?

Yours sincerely,
W. WATSON,
The Print Studio,
15 Egerton Road,
Twickenham, Middlesex.

Press complaints

From Mr R. Borzello

Sir, I refer to your report (October 17) on the new Press Complaints Commission and the comment by Mr Andrew Whitman Smith, editor of *The Independent*, that third-party complaints are a "waste of time and money" and that the commission should deal with "real complaints". The proposal is that in future only those "directly affected" by a newspaper's story will be allowed to make a complaint to the commission about that story.

In the past six years I have made some 220 third-party complaints to the Press Council. My complaints have been concerned mainly with racism when the information is not relevant. But I have also complained about invasion of privacy, sexism and the misuse of the power of the press by

newspapers to punish its critics. According to Whitman Smith's definition, these were not "real complaints" as I was not personally affected by them.

Yet 35 per cent of these complaints were adjudicated by the Press Council (the national average for adjudications is 10 per cent) and the majority were found in my favour against the newspapers concerned. If the Whitman Smith rule had been in force none of these complaints would have been heard although they obviously were based on newspaper stories which violated Press Council and national newspaper code guidelines.

It is not only the public's right to complain when newspapers violate their own proclaimed guidelines, it is the public's duty.

Yours sincerely,
R. BORZELLO,
43 Camden Passage, N1.

Broadcasting bill

From Mr M. A. Gienke

Sir, With all the attention given to the impartiality debate in relation to the Broadcasting Bill there is the possibility of overlooking the loss of a long-standing proviso that television services educate as well as entertain and inform.

Education was a fundamental pillar of the establishment of the BBC and commercial television companies. The British broadcast system has been held in great esteem around the world and is seen as a paragon of quality in its schools, higher education and general education service to society.

Soon after the current bill was introduced it was realised that the lack of statutory provision meant that the new commercial television companies would easily be able to chase the pound by entertaining with no reference to educating. The new Independent Television Commission will not

have the same powers as the IBA to insist such programmes are shown.

The Lords wisely amended the bill to safeguard the cherished educational programming on ITV, amending the Broadcasting Act. Recently David Mellor has indicated the government will seek to reverse this amendment, remove the educational programming requirement and thus remove the encouragement and incentive for maintaining this vital service on this country's most popular broadcast channel.

"Upon the education of the people of this country the fate of this country depends", said Disraeli. Through every available medium I would add, especially through commercial broadcasting which has proven to be so capable and adept at the task.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN A. GIENKE (Chairman),
Educational Television Association,
The King's Manor,
Exhibition Square, York.

Expensive laboratory and scientific equipment would no longer be required as, for example, pupils would no longer be required to explain the chemical reaction that took place when an egg was boiled, but instead be required to explain what it felt like to be the egg.

This does not require a bunsen burner. Indeed, it does not really require an egg. Traditionalists might argue that this new subject lacks a practical element, but an integral part of the syllabus would be to supply all pupils with one sheet of corrugated iron and several tons of newspaper, they then being required to build their classrooms with these materials.

I feel this proposal is the logical extension of all our recent advances in educational and examination theory, and have no hesitation in asking for your readers' support.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN STEPHEN,
The Perse School, Cambridge.

Looking at ways of getting about

From Mr Sebastian Kindersley

Sir, In view of the calls made by Government, Opposition and by "green" groups it is feasible or realistic to start penalising cyclists by declaring city centres off-limits to them during certain hours of the day as described in your report on October 18?

Here in Cambridge most students use cycles, as indeed do a significant part of the city's population. The problem we are faced with is three-fold: the serious traffic congestion caused by large buses (as so aptly shown in your photograph); lorries parked for loading or unloading in narrow streets and sheer volume of traffic; and the total lack of concern shown by both pedestrians and car drivers to cyclists. I have often had to brake sharply in order to avoid hitting prams, shoppers and tourists who launch themselves aimlessly into the road without so much as a glance either way.

In towns and cities local authorities should be doing all they possibly can to encourage cyclists: it can be a safe, clean, economical and attractive way to travel (how many fatalities per annum are caused by cyclists crashing into each other?) and in our environmentally conscious world what possible excuse can local authorities have for encouraging even more motor traffic?

It is about time that local government officers took a hard look at their priorities for traffic: after all, with the enormous traffic jams they must find themselves in they have ample time in which to do so.

Yours etc.,
S. KINDERSLEY,
34 Cambanks,
Union Lane, Cambridge.
October 18.

From Mr Paul Magrath
Sir, Recent visits to Holland and Germany have confirmed for me that this country has a long way to go before it can consider itself civilised in providing for cyclists. This is a pity.

Cycling is not only good for the environment but good for one's health too, unless you happen to be stuck behind an old bus (less than a quarter full for more than three quarters of the time) using up fossil fuels and emitting a thick black discharge of greenhouse gases.

Yours sincerely,
PAUL MAGRATH,
336 Westbourne Park Road, W11,
October 16.

From Mr Mark Fillingham
Sir, I spent last weekend at Hoddesdon. By public transport it would have taken 10 minutes to walk to the bus stop, 15 minutes to get to Fleet, 50 minutes on the train to Waterloo, 35 minutes to cross to Liverpool Street, 30 minutes to get to Broxbourne, 10 minutes by bus to Hoddesdon and a 20-minute walk to my destination.

I had with me an overhead projector, a box of audio recording equipment, a box of books, a box of materials for the conference I was attending, plus my own personal baggage: impossible to carry single-handed and justifiably unpopular on a crowded vehicle.

The total travelling time comes to almost three hours which, if realistic waiting time is included, brings the total to nearer four hours. By diesel car (at 50+ miles per gallon) it took less than an hour and a half, warm and dry, door to door, travelling at times which suited my other commitments.

How could improving public transport assist in such a journey? Transport policies should not be adversely weighted against the road user on doctrinaire grounds.

Yours etc.,
MARK FILLINGHAM,
23 Wyndham Close,
Yateley, Camberley, Surrey,
October 17.

Dentists' contracts

From Mr Ian Binder

Sir, Keith Osterloh (October 10) comments that the old dental contract did not allow dentists to refuse the more expensive treatments. He omits to explain that the dentist/patient contract was for a single course of treatment only, and once "reasonable dental fitness" had been achieved, dentists could legitimately decline to carry out the more complicated treatments under the NHS.

Under the new system, the dentist/patient contract is ongoing, and therefore all forms of treatment must be offered on a continuing basis. This, in theory, is good for patients, but if the fees are inadequate (the already ludicrously low fee for a bridge has been reduced by £23) and the dental technicians are unable to increase their charges, then something has to go. I fear this will be standards.

Yours faithfully,
IAN BINDER,
45 The Chine,
Muswell Hill, N10.

Plimsoll line

From Mrs M. Evans

Sir, Recently I have come across a further endangered species. I refer to the genus "plain old-fashioned black lace-up plimsolls, gents, size nine" as opposed to the species "trainers" which has apparently completely ousted them.

Yours faithfully,
M. EVANS,
19 Starwood Drive,
Wokingham, Berkshire.

A different class of worker

These days the British aristocracy can be found driving buses and working in delicatessens. Does this indicate their decline? Victoria McKee reports

Today a book is published entitled *The Decline and Fall of the British Aristocracy*. Tomorrow, the BBC begins a five-week series called *Working Titles*.

The book deplores — in academic, amply annotated argument — the “decline” from “leisured class to working aristocracy”. The television series celebrates the work ethic of the supposedly leisured classes.

Professor David Cannadine, whose book is the culmination of ten years’ work, takes to task “the heads of once great territorial families, who have now been obliged to join the salariat”. He records that “Lord Brabourne makes films. Lord Lichfield is a photographer. Viscount Chilton is a film producer for the Central Office of Information. The Marquess of Queensberry is a professor of ceramics at the Royal College of Art. The Duke of Leinster runs a flying school and his heir, the Marquess of Kildare, is a landscape gardener...” The list goes on and is, according to Professor Cannadine, evidence of an aristocracy “more decayed and more marginalised than it ever has been”.

Rosalind Gower, the producer of the BBC series, says the fact that the Earl of Bradford runs a restaurant (Porters, in Covent Garden), Lord Lichfield is a photographer and his sister, Lady Elizabeth Anson, a professional party planner, makes them all the more human. Alan Towers, the series’ presenter, is consistently impressed that not all heirs give themselves airs, or consider themselves above earning an upper crust.

But there has always been a greater affinity between the “leisured” and the working classes than those in between would credit. From the earliest feudal days the children of great households were sent off to others to serve an apprenticeship as pages and maidservants, and Lord Lichfield likes to recall how he and his sister were made to shadow the servants at Shugborough, their Staffordshire family seat, until they learnt how all the jobs in the house were done, from starting the fires to polishing the small change on every dressing-table.

“It is not uncommon for the gentry to fall back on the skills they have — which are to do with running a large house and land,” observes an impoverished peer’s daughter who now works as housekeeper to a wealthy industrialist. “At home we had a nanny, a cook, a parlourmaid, a housemaid and an in-between maid, I know how I liked things done, and

can therefore do things for others they way I would have liked them to be done for me.”

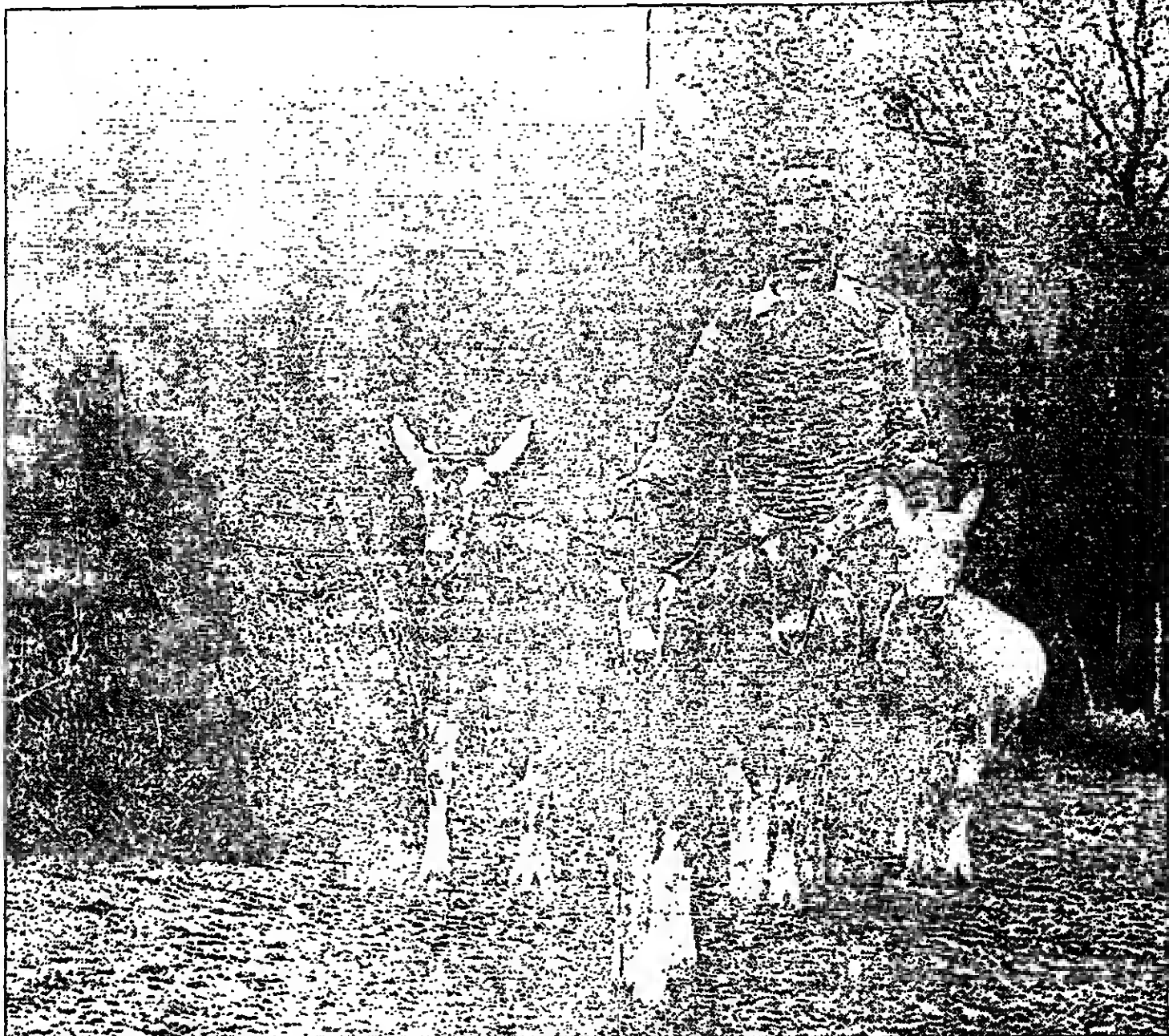
This philosophy undoubtedly accounts for part of the success of Lady Elizabeth’s party planning business — and is why the daughters of great houses so often become interior designers (like the Duke of Marlborough’s daughter, Lady Henrietta Spencer-Churchill), or work in auction houses (like Lady Victoria Leatham at Sotheby’s), both businesses that help others to acquire the illusion of being the manor born.

Ian Ross, who grew up in a home with a butler and is married to an earl’s sister, worked as a butler when he fell on hard times in Beverly Hills. “If you’ve had servants it’s easier to think of becoming one,” he says. “But once you’ve been a servant you tend not to want to have them again.” He is now back in Britain, and writing a book about his experiences.

Professor Cannadine seems to find it infra dig that “the Countess of Mar is a saleswoman for British Telecom. Lord Simon Conyngham is an assistant in a delicatessen. Lord Teviot is a bus conductor. The Duchess of Somerset does the cooking herself...” and that “Lord Kingsale, the premier baron of Ireland, is a silage-pit builder... having previously been a bingo caller in Stourbridge, a lorry driver and a safari keeper...”

Lord Teviot — a former bus driver, in fact, who married his conductress — also worked in a supermarket (with his wife as a cashier), proving that since a grocer like Lord Salisbury can become a peer it is only fair that a peer can become a grocer. Lord Teviot is an Old Etonian who claimed he had been brought up “with one adage: to be natural at all times”. He now pursues the more genteel art of genealogy.

Lady Mar — who holds Scotland’s premier earldom, but inherited no estate or money with her ancient title — points out that she gave up her job as a BT sales superintendent eight years ago. Now she helps her husband on their Worcestershire smallholding and is active in the House of Lords. Her daughter, Lady Susan — who will inherit the title — trained as a secretary and worked for Ted Heath until her marriage. Lady Mar, who sits in the House of Lords as an independent and is known for her interest in health and social service issues, says: “I have never been afraid of hard work, and even worked as a hospital auxiliary for a time. If you



County set: the Countess of Mar, a former BT sales superintendent, now helps her husband on their Worcestershire smallholding



Waste not: Lord Guernsey on his “controlled landfill” site

ask me the reason the British aristocracy has survived better than so many others is because we have been willing and able to work.” She accuses the book of being “way out of date”.

Professor Cannadine is unapologetic. “It takes ten years to write a book like this and it is a serious, important work,” he says. “It doesn’t matter when she did the job, the fact is that she did it, and Evelyn Waugh has said that ‘when aristocrats work they become middle class’. The point I am making is that the essence of aristocracy is being leisured, not having to work for a living.”

Other members of the working aristocracy vehemently disagree. The Earl of Mount Charles, who worked in publishing and runs rock concerts, a restaurant and a nightclub at Slane Castle in the Irish Republic, says: “If I were to sit idly by, then I would be in decline. It would be alien to my nature, and if to be active is to be

in decline it is surely the strangest definition.” Lord Mount Charles says that he and his brother, Lord Simon Conyngham — who has worked in a delicatessen, a fish shop and for a fast-food chain before starting his own concession selling salmon, haggis and other delicacies at airports — have both grown up with a strong work ethic. He says the stereotype of an aristocracy that “spend their entire lives hunting and shooting themselves in the foot” is far-fetched, and “having had to learn to use every trick in the book to survive” has given the aristocracy a new strength.

The Countess of Normanton, whose husband was described in the book as “a male model for Burberry”, asserts: “While our house, Somerley, and our dogs have been used in advertisements for Burberry, and my husband appeared in the background, my husband is certainly not a male model. But he does work very

hard on the estate, which we have commercialised in many ways with conferences, clay pigeon shoots and the like. It’s like running a family business, and it’s jolly hard work.”

Charles, Lord Guernsey — heir to the Earl of Aylesford, Lord Lieutenant of the West Midlands — is a “working title” not featured in the television series who does not mind dirtying his hands with rubbish for the sake of preserving this estate, Packington Hall near Coventry. Although Lord Guernsey recently relinquished control of his waste disposal business to an American firm, the offices are maintained at Packington, and he can still see what he prefers to call “a controlled landfill site rather than a dump” from his windows.

“We were able to get such a good price for the business because, since we had to live with it and were not going to go anywhere, it had to be a model site, well to advance of legislation,” he says. He ran the business actively and personally for ten years, and claims his family did not look askance at it because “it was such an important lifeline for the survival of the estate”.

“I suppose if you’ve got enough money you can indulge yourself with some work which is simply satisfying, like painting or pottery — but few of us can afford to do just that.” Lord Guernsey also hires his house out for conferences, with his wife, Penelope, taking charge of the catering.

Some have looked outside the sheltered world of the estate for survival. While “cooking, culture, Cartier, Christie’s, children and charity” are the traditional choices

for uppercrust girls, Lady Carolyn Seymour, the eldest daughter of the Marquess of Hertford, does not shy away from manual work. She picked tomatoes in Greece, ran a kindergarten in India and worked as a barnmaid before becoming a secretary, which she is today. Like her sisters, Lady Diana (also a secretary) and Lady Anne (a teacher), she has done everything possible to keep her title secret from those she works with. “People treat you in a different way once they know,” she says (a sentiment echoed by Lady Elizabeth Anson in *Working Titles*). “Back home you’re Lady Carolyn, you have staff and an estate and the front pew at church. But at work you’re just Carolyn and don’t admit you’re a oob and live in a stately home.”

During the week Lady Carolyn shares a modest west London flat with one of her sisters, and is gradually coming to terms with the fact that her family seat, Ragley Hall in Alcester, will go to her brother one day and cease to be even her weekend and holiday home.

“We work because we have to — we’re not just playing at it,” she says. But she is clearly ambivalent about her role. “Maybe I’ve travelled so much because I wanted to avoid the rest of the people who get on the Tube at 8 o’clock each morning. I sometimes think, I wasn’t born to get on the Tube.”

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● *The Decline and Fall of the British Aristocracy* by Professor David Cannadine is published by Yale University Press, price £19.95. *Working Titles* is on BBC1 for the next five Tuesdays at 11.40pm.

Stomach for a fight

The microwave may restore continental faith in British food

One hundred and fifty British companies are aiming this week to persuade foreigners to eat more like us. It will not be easy. Jokes abound about British food’s fish and chip image have cost us dear — while Britain’s food exports are worth some £5 billion a year, we spend almost twice that on food imports.

Both fish and chips will, as it happens, be strongly (if separately) represented today in the British pavilion at the Salon International d’Alimentation (Sial) trade fair in Paris. Britain’s 150 exhibitors will be flying bravely in the face of the contempt which plagues the reputation of British food abroad.

“What we export is, metaphorically speaking, peanuts,” Roy Edleston, the director of European operations for Food from Britain, says. “Our presence in Europe has been virtually negligible. The British food industry does not try hard enough, and does not have the will to succeed in Europe.”

There are, though, said to be superb opportunities awaiting British food manufacturers in Europe. We are among the world’s leaders in ready-made meals and convenience foods, a position due partly to a national preoccupation with keeping out of the kitchen as much as possible.

Britain has more women going out to work than almost any other industrialised nation. We also have the world’s highest ownership of microwave ovens, and where we have led, others may follow. “As chauvinism breaks down in France,” says a Food from Britain spokesman, “there will be a potentially huge market for high quality, British ready-made meals. French women are increasingly going out to work, and wanting to free themselves from the kitchen.” So Sharwoods, Campbell’s and Ross Youngs will be in the fair’s British pavilion with a catholic selection of ready-prepared dishes.

For almost one third of the British contingent this will be a first foray to the biennial exhibition. The expense of mounting a stand there has usually limited participation to the likes of RHM, Allied-Lyons and United Biscuits. This time Food from Britain, with the help of Department of Trade grants for smaller companies, has urged more of the food industry’s small fry to try their luck.

Many of the most successful British ready-made meals are prepared from anything but British recipes. There are Italian pastas and pizzas, Spanish paellas, Greek moussakas, Indian curries, Chinese noodles, Thai satays and even French *canezon à l’orange* and *boeuf bourguignon*.

Food from Britain has bluntly warned food producers that sticking a Union Jack on the product is not enough to make it sell. If foreigners do not like our food, it seems we have to dish them up someone else’s instead.

ROBIN YOUNG

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LET IT THROUGH THE TIMES

Responsibility for contraception is heading firmly back into the man’s domain

Are we ready for the male pill?

A MALE contraceptive pill may be only a few years away, according to researchers. But are men, and their partners, ready for it? How many women would trust a lover’s pledge that he was taking his daily dose? And how many parents would recommend it to their teenage sons?

The questions are raised by the publication last week of an international study of the effectiveness of contraceptive injections for men. The World Health Organisation project involved hundreds of volunteers in seven countries.

Researchers have known for years that testosterone, the male sex hormone, can be used to block sperm production. The injections appear to be more effective than the oral contraceptive for women.

Within the next few years, the injections may become widely available, paving the way for a pill version by the end of the decade. The potential benefits are enormous, particularly in over-populated countries, but a pill’s success depends on the extent to which men accept it.

The advent of the pill for women in the Sixties took the onus of preventing unwanted pregnancies away from men. Now evidence is emerging that many men would welcome their own contraceptive. An increasing number with established families are opting for a vasectomy — about 77,000 were performed in Britain in 1985 — and the threat of Aids has increased the use of condoms.

The WHO study required volunteers to take weekly injections of testosterone, in the arm or buttocks, for at least a year. The participants had to be healthy, aged between 21 and 45, and in stable



Dr. Fred Wu with WHO project volunteers (from left) James Bremner, John Munro and Ross Hunter

relationships. There was no shortage of volunteers, though a few dropped out because they did not like the frequency of the injections. John Munro, aged 37, an Edinburgh printer who took part in the project, says: “It is important to have mutual trust in this sort of thing. Contraception isn’t just a female prerogative. I don’t like using condoms and I feel this method is really handy. The injections didn’t bother me at all.” The only side effect he suffered was some acne on his back.

JAMES Bremner, aged 42, another Edinburgh volunteer, attests to the reversibility of the treatment. He and his wife had a boy within a year of stopping the injections. “If the drug moves on to a tablet form it would be ideal,” he says.

The next challenge for researchers is to modify the treatment so that injections are necessary only three or four times a year.

The Edinburgh men were recruited by Professor Dennis Lincoln, the director of the Medical Research Council’s

reproductive biology unit in the city and one of the organisers of the study. “Times are changing. There is more support for a male contraceptive than we expected,” he says. “We found many men in stable, monogamous relationships, who are enthusiastic and willing to share the responsibilities of contraception.”

“Within the next ten years we could see marriages where the husband is on his pill for one year, and the wife on hers for the next. I think this sort of sharing is going to catch on.”

He is more cautious, though, about offering the pill to single, unattached men. “The user has to appreciate the responsibilities involved. When the female pill is prescribed, there is advice given along with it, and the same rules should apply for men.”

“If you had a teenage son and there was a male pill available, I wouldn’t suggest you encourage him to take it. If he was sexually active, the best advice on contraception would be to use condoms.”

Charlotte Owen, of the Family Planning Association,

says: “We fully support the development of a male contraceptive, but we have reservations about making it available to younger men. A lot of girls simply wouldn’t trust a new boyfriend who said he was taking it. In marriages or long-term relationships, though, it is an ideal option.” Dr. Pramilla Senanayake, the assistant secretary-general of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, has similar doubts about giving the pill to single men, but does not completely rule out the idea. “There are many young men who don’t have a permanent partner but who feel a responsibility to protect their girlfriend from pregnancy. I don’t believe we should discourage them.”

DR SENANAYAKE points out that 60 million men in the world have had a vasectomy. Male responsibility towards contraception is well established, she says. “The choices for men are limited. If the options were extended, I’m certain more men would respond.” There is, however, another problem. Men are being urged to use condoms to protect themselves and their partners from the risks of HIV and other diseases. Can they be expected to adopt both the pill and the condom?

“They may be used to wearing the trousers, but putting on both condoms and a pill may be asking much of many of them,” Senanayake says. The single man daunted by such a challenge should opt for a condom with its twin value as both a barrier against infection and a contraceptive, she says.

THOMSON PRENTICE

Artful dodgers

FACED with the growing trade in worldwide art theft, art and antique experts are getting together with police specialists for what is billed as the first international conference on art world crime. Policemen from 19 British forces will join representatives from Scotland Yard, the Irish police and the FBI in America at next month's meeting in Plymouth to widen their knowledge on international rackets involving theft, fraud and forgery. Organiser Philip Saunders says: "It is important to establish a liaison between all the parties involved in this kind of crime, from private individuals and public bodies who own the goods to the police dealing with the crime, right on through to brokers, underwriters and loss adjusters."

Change of shift

DEVOTEES of the Opera Factory will notice that for the first time, one of its productions — Madama's *Saturne*, which opens Wednesday at London's Drill Hall — is being staged by someone other than the Factory's founder, David Freeman. Robert Chevara will be in charge and the conductor will be David Parry, rather than Paul Daniel, the Factory's musical director. The reason is that Freeman has ambitious plans for the Opera Factory and is keen to give opportunities to new talents. Daniel, meanwhile, has his hands full both in Leeds, where he has just become musical director of Opera North, and at home in London, where his wife, the soprano Joan Rodgers, has recently given birth.

Lady and tramp

THE title role of Pinter's *The Caretaker* was written for a man, and has always been played by one. Until now, that is, for on Wednesday Miriam Karlin takes on the role in Annie Castledine's production at the Sherman Theatre, Cardiff (0222 230451). The presence of a female tramp, trying to cause friction between the two strange brothers, undoubtedly throws up a sexual *visson*, not present in the original. But Castledine says that when Pinter was asked for permission to alter the gender and change a few pronouns he said: "Go ahead," with, she reports, a wry smile.



Last chance

THERE is talk that Peter O'Toole might return to the West End next year, to star again in the role he created, the vodka-sloshing chain-smoking hero of *Jeffrey Bernard Is Unwell*. But that may never happen, so this week could be the last chance to see Bernard's favourite bar, the Coach & Horses in Rongilly Street, recreated on the Apollo Theatre stage (071-437 2663). James Bolam is currently playing Mr Nighttime O'Booze.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Bow belle's capital week



Imperious: No spectres of self-doubt or emotional distress have ever haunted the playing of Anne-Sophie Mutter

Anne-Sophie Mutter's London appearances, Richard Morrison writes, are unparalleled

S omething extraordinary is happening at the Barbican. A 27-year-old German violinist is giving the kind of comprehensive demonstration of all-round instrumental finesse that perhaps only two or three other musicians in the world could match. By tomorrow night, Anne-Sophie Mutter will have played seven concertos and seven big chamber works within one week. On Saturday night alone, in one epic concert, she delivered three concertos — any one of which would be draining enough for the average virtuoso.

But it is the astonishing quality of her playing, not the bravado of her ambition, that defines the significance of this enterprise. The only comparable individual contribution to London concert life in recent years has been Rostropovich's marathon series of cello concertos.

Playing of this quality simply sweeps aside all the tatty paraphernalia of glitter and gossip that inevitably surrounds a star of this magnitude. What does it matter whether she drives a Porsche or a minicab, or wears shoulder-less dresses or dungarees? Such matters become irrelevant the moment she lifts her bow, in a characteristically imperious gesture, to the strings. So, too, does her "Kamien" protégé history: this is nobody's protégé (and probably never was), but an artist of fascinating resource and unparalleled powers of concentration.

What is her special quality? First, of course, there is absolute

technical command. Her immaculate, mercurial account of Sarasate's *Fantaisie on Bizet's Carmen* was the most extrovert demonstration of that: the harmonics uncannily accurate; the triple-stopping executed with ridiculous ease; the flashing arpeggios of the "Chanson bohème" swirling past with fiendish brilliance.

Superb technique, however, constitutes the mere beginning of Mutter's approach. Much more important is the questioning intelligence with which it is applied, so that every phrase is moulded with unique meaning.

The Tchaikovsky concerto on Saturday night was given the sort of performance that a listener is privileged to hear once in a lifetime: the opening movement, in particular, was handled with tremendously bold flexibility, like a bird swooping or hovering at will. Phrases that have been played 10,000 times sounded as fresh as if the ink was still drying on the page. Sir Colin Davis and the London Symphony Orchestra did admirably to stick with her.

Parallel to this metrical daring is Mutter's increasingly startling choice of tone colour. She has at her disposal every classic violin timbre, and she knows exactly when to play each one: the cool, chaste sound (in the slow passage of the Frank sonata); the brilliant, metallic edge (for the finale of Mozart's *Sinfonia Concertante*,

and again with magnificent wilfulness in Tartinì's "Devil's Trill" Sonata); the buzzing G-string, often allied to machine-gun articulation of fabulous clarity (the Tchaikovsky finale); the smoochy, sensuous portamento; the creamy full-toned top register; and so on.

But there are some sounds that seem exclusively hers. One thinks particularly of the remarkable, remote tone she produced at the start of the Tchaikovsky slow movement, as if some plaintive song was heard behind a closed door.

Mutter's relish of an intellectual challenge shows itself in another way, too. As Rostropovich did in his youth, she has inspired pre-emptive-day composers to write big, testing pieces for her. She played two such pieces last week. Despite its piecemeal construction, Witold Lutoslawski's *Partita-Interlude-Chain 2* is now nothing less than a gigantic concerto, moving from a Baroque-style fierceness to ebullient clusters of ethereal stillness.

Under the composer's direction, Mutter played it as if the music was as thoroughly in her blood as Brahms: not only did she invest her own part with great character, but she was alive to the possibilities for subtle interplay within the beguiling orchestral textures. The

other recent concerto she included was less inspired, though Norbert Moret's bizarre *En Réve* (about a swarm of gnats, according to the composer) did at least allow her to run through all the usual advantage tricks.

Mutter's greatest strength as an interpreter has always been that she presents a strongly individual vision with immense self-confidence. She stamps her personality wilfully on every phrase like a farmer branding sheep. That has its disadvantages; listeners may react equally strongly against her view. A baroque purist, for instance, might have found unpalatable her massively sonorous but far from 18th-century approach to Tartinì.

Perhaps, too, the presence of this steely-minded perfectionist has an intimidating effect on her collaborators. Neither the Mozart (with Bruno Giuranna attempting, but not succeeding very well, to conduct the orchestra and play the viola part) nor the Beethoven Triple Concerto (with the pianist Andrei Gavrilov and cellist Frans Helmersson) gripped as the solo concertos did.

Where does Mutter go from here? Nowhere, it seems, at least for the moment: after 13 years of high-pressure music-making she plans to take a year off. That is wise. She has gone as far as a first-class musical intelligence and miraculous fingers will take her. No spectres of self-doubt or emotional distress have ever haunted her playing. If they do in later years she might become an even greater artist.

THEATRE

Pioneer revue'd

Clarke Peters, author of a musical tribute to bandleader Louis Jordan, talks to Clive Davis

THE American actor Clarke Peters was about five years old when he first heard the music of Louis Jordan. The song, he remembers, was one of Jordan's many novelty hits, "Ain't Nobody Here But Us Chickens", a nocturnal dialogue between a farmer and the occupants of a henhouse. "I heard it on the radio in the early Fifties," says Peters. "Jordan's career was levelling off by then, but you can understand the effect that song had on the imagination of a young child."

The farmyard song is one of the highlights of Peters' tribute to Jordan, *Five Guys Named Moe*, which officially opens tonight at the Theatre Royal, Stratford East. Not quite a full-blown musical, nor a revue — and certainly not a musical biography — the show contains some 20 Jordan hits, all snappily choreographed by Charles Augins. Peters prefers to describe the evening as a "revue". However it is defined, *Five Guys* helps to restore Jordan to his rightful position as a pioneer of rhythm and blues and an effervescent entertainer.

At the peak of his career, in the mid-Forties, Jordan was one of the most popular performers in America. Risky but never crude, his songs helped introduce white audiences to the rituals of ghetto life and the verbal dexterity of black slang ("Reel, Petite, and Gone" was a typical example). The insidious beat of his "jump" music, a mixture of blues and stripped-down swing, paved the way for the rise of rock 'n' roll. Bill Haley and Chuck Berry both acknowledged their debt to him. More recently, the rock singer Joe Jackson revived some of the "hep" tunes for the *Jumpin' Jive* album.

Jordan, who was born in Arkansas in 1908, made his name in the late Thirties as an alto-saxophonist and singer with the bandleader Chick Webb. (One of Webb's other discoveries was Ella Fitzgerald.) Jordan formed his own group, The Tympany Five, in 1938 and embarked on the series of hits which earned him through the next decade and a half.

The most enduring songs included "Is You Is or Is You Ain't (Ma Baby)", "Saturday Night Fish Fry" and "Caldonia". The vaudeville antics, however, always went hand in hand with assured mu-

sicianship. Illness interrupted Jordan's career just as the rock 'n' roll era was getting under way, but he remained active up to his death in 1975.

"I love the humour in his songs," Clarke Peters explains. "They're all little scenarios about individuals. Songs today aren't like that. They don't lend themselves to theatrical exploitation. I love his style too. The cat was classy. He had great dress sense. I think a lot of young people would go for that now, especially as jazz is back in fashion again."

A New Yorker who moved to London in 1973, Peters first wrote *Five Guys Named Moe* as a sketch, five years ago. He then expanded the piece into a 55-minute late-night show at the Cottesloe. At the time Peters was appearing at the National in another play about black American music, August Wilson's *M. J. Rains' Black Bottom*. For the Stratford performances, *Five Guys* has been expanded again, to 90 minutes. The scene is set in the present day, with the central character, the lovelorn Nomax (played by Dig Wayne), listening to the radio while drowning his woes in alcohol. He is then confronted with the five Moe's — characters from the Jordan song — who carry him back to the Forties and teach him about women, love and how to be a cool dude.

Jordan himself does not appear; the five Moe's are all fragments of his showbusiness persona. The show moves quickly, the songs linked together by brief sketches and the minimum of plot. Peters says he was wary about turning the evening into a full-scale musical biography. He thinks that would be a task for a television documentary. Of course, the public is accustomed to musicals that last a good three hours, with lasers and six dozen scene changes thrown in for good measure. *Five Guys* is a lightweight in that respect, but as Peters points out, that is not necessarily a disadvantage.

People, he says, do not pay to go to the theatre in order to sit for three hours; they pay to be entertained.

Five Guys Named Moe is at the Theatre Royal, Stratford East, London E15 (081-534 0310), until November 24.

ALASTAIR MUIR



Clarke Peters, author of and performer in *Five Guys Named Moe*

THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL

Impartiality?



Can they judge for themselves the fairness of what they see and hear on television?

Forget the rows about tougher curbs in the Broadcasting Bill, says Colin Shaw, director of the Broadcasting Standards Council. Media education in schools is a better answer.

The TES - Friday

TELEVISION

Understanding other worlds

IF YOU were a television interviewer, and a man sitting (for reasons presumably familiar to the late Salvador Dalí) beneath a large painted cow told you that he has always to do up the top button of his shirt, for fear of getting wind on his collar bone, would you (a) manage not to giggle or (b) close down the interview entirely?

Jonathan Ross, in his encounter with the film maker David Lynch, otherwise known as the Eagle Scout from Montana, seemed not even faintly surprised, and pressed on with the adoration business. By that time, he had already been told by other Lynch admirers that the great director always wore ties at art school, in fact three at a time, so the fear of wind on the collar bone must go back quite a way. It will probably occupy several chapters of the authorised biography.

For One Week Only David Lynch (Last Friday) was, of course, a neat pre-emptive strike by Channel 4 which, having failed to afford the British rights in *Twin Peaks* (tomorrow, BBC 2) did at least manage to get a director-profile out of it. Lynch apparently comes from a secure background, but he specialises in the dark undercurrents of the American dream.

He also shaves mice, according to one of his actors, and may in the view of his daughter have made the gothic horror *Eraserhead* as a veiled protest against fatherhood and family life, which is rather like suggesting that the composer of the *Ring* cycle must have been somewhat opposed to mouth organs.

It also turns out that, before the moosey and the awards came rolling in, Lynch used to moonlight as a plumber. It is very satisfactory, he told Ross, who said that perhaps he, too, should try it. "I think you should," said Lynch, having by this time obviously had the chance to assess Ross as an interviewer.

Compared to the sheer inscrutability of Lynch, the complexities of post-war Japan should

have been a doddle, but last night's start to Nippon, a massive eight-part series by Peter Pagnamenta for BBC 2, suggested that we still have a lot to learn about the so-called floating kingdom.

Coming at the end of a week of eyewitness reports from the survivors of Stalin and Nixon, the Japanese proved unusually intriguing interviewees, perhaps because they are still comparatively new to the business. As a Tokyo radio reporter recalled, when he began to stick microphones under people's noses in 1945 they thought he was trying to shoot them with a strange new kind of gun.

The postwar American occupiers brought with them Hollywood biographies of Lincoln and Washington to inspire feelings of democracy and personal freedom, but Emperor Hirohito was still in the Imperial Palace and there were other problems to be resolved. Japanese audiences watching *America the Beautiful* deeply coveted the modern farm machinery, but did not care for shots of American farmers' wives having the audacity to speak to their husbands.

Americans seemed extremely inscrutable, especially to a Japanese newsmen who had three baths in rapid succession before his interview with Hirohito, thereby setting himself apart from the Western observers, who would usually take a bath after meeting him.

But it was the occupying Americans who wrote Japan's postwar constitution in six days. The document closed down the armed forces and declared, to the amazement of the locals, that war was no longer to be their divine right. Meanwhile, at the Tokyo film studios, directors were having to train embarrassed Japanese actors in the art of the Hollywood kiss by tugging (out of vision) at their ankles, to indicate when enough was enough. And *Reader's Digest* was, by 1947, Japan's best-selling magazine.

All in all, it was a cultural refit of extraordinary speed and efficiency, gave or take a minor potential general strike, and that it was achieved virtually without further bloodshed has to be accounted one of the wonders of the postwar world.

But, then again, the Japanese have always been masters of efficiency, and as early as the autumn of 1945 their prime minister was noting that, with sufficient American funds, it should be possible to rebuild the economy. Rather than just giving us the viewing figures who this series ends, it would be good if the BBC could also tell us how many were watching on Japanese sets.

SHERIDAN MORLEY

Pick of the Week



A George IV silver-gilt cup and cover designed by Robert Garrard 1826. Estimate: £5,000-8,000

CHRISTIE'S

THIS silver-gilt cup and cover with the final cast in the form of two sailors and the handles simulating coral was designed by Robert Garrard in 1826. It was awarded to Joseph Weld, one of the greatest yachtsmen of the early 19th century, after his yacht 'Arrow' won the forerunner to the modern Cowes week race in August 1826.

In 1820, The Yacht Club received patronage from George IV and was granted the "Royal" prefix which is engraved on this cup.

The cup is included in the Sale of Important Silver and Objects of Vertu at Christie's, King Street on 24 October 1990 at 10.30 a.m.

For further information on this and other sales in the next week, please telephone Christie's 24-hour Auction Information Service on (071) 839 9060.

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TELEVISION & RADIO

COMPILED BY PETER DEAR AND KARI KNIGHT
TELEVISION CHOICE PETER WAYMARK/RADIO CHOICE PETER DAVALL

BBC 1

- 6.00 **Coffee**
6.30 **BBC Breakfast News** with Nicholas Witchell and Jill Dando.
8.50 **Daytime UK** introduced by Alan Titchmarsh and Judi Spiers in Birmingham and Adrian Mills in Manchester.
9.00 **News**, regional news and weather.
9.05 **Brainwave**. Andy Craig with the quiz game from Liverpool 9.25 **Dish of the Day**. Rosemary Moon with another recipe 9.30 **People Today**. Adrian Mills, Debi Jones, Ronke Phillips and Liza Aitken answer viewers' questions.
10.00 **News**, regional news and weather.
10.05 **Children's BBC** introduced by Simon Parkin begins with **Playdays**.
10.25 **The Family News**. Cartoon adventures (10.35) **People Today**. The *Kitchen* Call team answer viewers' questions.
11.00 **News**, regional news and weather.
11.05 **Kilroy**. Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a topical discussion.
11.45 **Before Noon**. Adrian Mills and Ronke Phillips with viewers' telephone calls.
12.00 **News**, regional news and weather.
12.05 **After Noon**. Antiques Roadshow Gems. Hugh Southy with a selection of memorable extracts from the *Antiques Roadshow* series 12.20 **Scene Today**. Alan Titchmarsh and Judi Spiers with the daily entertainment show from Pebble Mill 12.55 **Regional news and weather**.

BBC 2

- 8.00 **News**
8.15 **Westminster**. The BBC parliamentary team with a round-up of the business from the Lords and the Commons.
8.30 **Daytime on Two**: the quality of drinking water 8.40 **A walk along the Appian Way** 8.45 **For people with learning difficulties** 8.40 **Mathematical investigations** 10.00 **Stoictime** 10.18 **Click and close** to make rhythm patterns 10.40 **What's believed**. For seven to 11-year-olds 11.00 **Energy** generated by water 11.22 **Me and My Bike**, a science drama 11.35 **Aesthetics and design** 11.55 **An environmental controversy** 12.15 **Trade union affairs** since the second world war 12.35 **Equine opportunities** for disabled school leavers 1.00 **Infrared light and ultrasound** sound 1.20 **Pigeon Street** 1.40 **Lancashire children** question the prime minister on water pollution.
2.00 **News and weather** followed by **Storytime**.
2.15 **Songs of Praise** from **Restorers in County Down** (1). (Ceebs).
2.50 **Behind the Screen**. A preview of *Twain Peaks*, the new series directed by cult film-maker David Lynch, which begins tomorrow on BBC2.
3.00 **News and weather** followed by **Midweek**. The last hurdle. A documentary about the dwindling number of eskimo whale hunters (1).
3.50 **News**, regional news and weather.
4.00 **Call My Bluff**. Robert Robinson referees a contest of word meanings between Arthur Marshall and Frank Aikin. The guests are Mike Reed, Jancis Robinson, Jane Glover and Spike Milligan (1).
4.30 **Fighting Talk**.
4.30 **CHOICE**: A series of interviews by the philosopher and writer Anne Kelleher.

- 1.00 **One O'Clock News** with Philip Heyman, Westover.
1.30 **Neighbours** (Ceebs). 1.50 **Four Squares**. Quiz show 2.15 **The Six Million Dollar Man**: Love Song for Tanya. The man of many spare parts protects a visiting Russian gymnast.
3.00 **Hudson and Halls**. The camp Kiwi books are joined by comedian Bernie Winters 3.25 **Head of the Class**. American comedy set in a class of gifted but obnoxious students.
3.50 **Freeman Sam**. Cartoon fun 4.05 **A Bear Behind 4.10 The Chipmunks** 4.25 **Pigsty**. Comedy series set in a pizza cafe 4.35 **Thundercats**. Cartoon.
4.55 **Newsround** 5.05 **Blue Peter**. (Ceebs).
5.35 **Neighbours** (1). (Ceebs). Northern Ireland: Sportsworld 5.40 **Inside Ulster**.
6.00 **Six O'Clock News** with Peter Sissons and Moira Stuart. Weather.
6.30 **Regional News Magazines**. Northern Ireland: Neighbours.
7.00 **Wogan**. Among the guests is actress Maureen Lipman.
7.30 **Watchdog** includes an item on how British Gas deals with complaints.
8.00 **Telly Addicts**. The Aitken family based in Milton Keynes against the *Boulters of Nottingham*.
8.30 **Allo 'Allo!** Resistance force with Gordon Kaye (1). (Ceebs).
9.00 **Nine O'Clock News** with Martin Lewis. Regional news and weather.
9.30 **Panorama**. The White Tribe of Africa. The second of two reports by David Dimbleby in South Africa looks at the white minority and how far it is reconciled to change.

White fears: resistance to change (9.30pm)

- 10.20 **Mancuso FBI: Murder of Pearl**. Mancuso goes undercover and behind bars to expose corruption in the Bureau. Northern Ireland: Flash McVeigh 10.25 **Ulster in Focus** 10.45 **Mancuso FBI**.
11.05 **The Rock 'n' Roll Years**. 1973 - the year that saw the end of the Vietnam conflict and the start of the miners' strike. With musical memories provided by Elton John and Suzie Quatro, among others (1).
11.35 **Help Your Child with Reading** presented by Maggie Phibbs.
11.50 **Advice Shop** investigates the child benefit system. Northern Ireland: 11.45 **The Rock 'n' Roll Years** 12.15pm 12.45 **Advice Shop** 12.20am **Weather**.

Powerful challenge: Anne Kelleher (4.30pm)

- sets out to challenge the assumptions of those with the power and influence to affect our lives. This afternoon's conversation with Peter Morgan, director general of the Institute of Directors, was not recorded in time for previewing. Tomorrow's was and suggests that *Fighting Talk* will live up to its title and offer some lively encounters. Kelleher, who presented a provocative *Dynite* programme on marriage, is a sharp and intelligent questioner who is not afraid to ruffle feathers. Her interrogation of Sir John Woodcock, chief inspector of constabulary, goes straight to the heart of such matters as corruption, racism and the handling of police demonstrations. Whether Kelleher should so obviously reveal herself as being on the side of the police's critics, instead of adopting the television interviewer's traditionally neutral role, is a good question.
5.00 **Film: Colorado Territory** (1949, b/w) starring Joel McCrea, Virginia Mayo and Dorothy Malone. A powerful, fast-moving retelling of *High Sierra* about an outlaw who escapes from prison and is persuaded to take part in one more robbery before retiring. Directed by Raoul Walsh.

ITV LONDON

- 6.00 **TV-am** begins with **News and Good Morning Britain** presented by Maya Even and, from 7.00, by Mike Morris and Lorraine Kelly. At 8.10, in the first of a week-long series on truancy, its causes and extent are investigated in the Doc Spots at 8.20 and 8.35 Dr Hilary Jones discusses cholesterol and heart disease. At 8.50 **Wackadoodle**, entertainment for children presented by Tommy Mallett.
9.25 **Jeopardy!** Chris Donohue has the answers, his contestants must guess the questions 9.55 **Thames News** and weather.
10.00 **The Times**... The Place... John Appleton and a topical discussion.
10.40 **This Morning**. Family-oriented magazine show presented by Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley. Prince Edward joins the programme as a presenter when he talks about the trials of Edinburgh's award scheme, and those who have attempted to achieve a gold award.
12.05 **Rosie and Jim**. Children's entertainment 12.25 **Home and Away**. 12.55 **Thames News** and weather.
1.00 **News at One** with John Suchet. Weather.
1.20 **Thames Help**. Jackie Sprockley and John Murray preview this week's programmes of *Thames Help* dealing with food issues. 1.50 **A Country Practice**. Australian drama set in a community health clinic in the outback.
2.20 **Magnum**. Glossy adventures of a Hawaii-based private detective 3.15 **ITN News** headlines 3.20 **Thames News** headlines 3.25 **Families**. B-sides of true love. Tonight Donatella's determination to prove his innocence of infidelity leads him to make a date with Laurel. Starring Jimmy Mulville, Diane Hardcastle and Luza Goddard. (Oracle).
4.00 **News at Ten** with Alastair Burnet.

- 5.55 **Bugs Bunny and Friends**. Cartoons (1).
6.10 **The Sooty Show** with Matthew Corbett 6.40 **Court Duckula** featuring the voice of David Jason.
6.50 **Who's the Boss?** American sitcom.
6.55 **Thames Help** with advice on breast feeding.
7.00 **Home and Away** (1).
7.30 **Thames News** and weather.
7.50 **The Krypton Factor**. Gordon Burns hosts the final of Group B, in which contestants attempt to move closer to November's grand final. (Oracle).
7.55 **Coronation Street**. The last of the week's three visits to the Rover's Return. (Oracle).
8.00 **French Fields**. Lightweight comedy series starring Anon Rodgers and Julia McKenzie as an English couple living in France.
8.30 **World in Action: Inside Today's KGB**. Oleg Gordievsky, the former double agent in the KGB, reveals the complicated world of Soviet intelligence and conducts a "masterclass" in the dirty arts of espionage.
9.00 **Shelley**. The once subversive sitcom has sadly settled for more conventional humour. Shelley believes that he is first choice for best man when he is asked by Phil, who is attempting to tie the knot for the third time. Shelley may be acceptable to Phil, but will he be good enough for the bride's mother? Starring Hywel Bennett, David Rival and Maria Aitken.
9.30 **That's Love**. Comedy series about the trials of true love. Tonight Donatella's determination to prove his innocence of infidelity leads him to make a date with Laurel. Starring Jimmy Mulville, Diane Hardcastle and Luza Goddard. (Oracle).
10.00 **News at Ten** with Alastair Burnet.

- and Trevor McDonald. Weather. 10.30 **Thames News** and weather.
10.40 **Film: A Fistful of Dollars** (1966). Stars Clint Eastwood, Gian Maria Volonte, and Marianne Koch. A wandering gunfighter rides into a town on the Mexican border where two gangs are involved in a deadly feud. He joins in, earning money from both sides and swearing loyalty to none but himself. The first Clint Eastwood spaghetti Western to introduce the Man with No Name is stylish, brooding and violent as it explores the theme that nobody is good and those with few morals make the best heroes. The plot was borrowed from Kurosawa's *Yojimbo* and, like his other masterpiece *Seven Samurai*, translates well as a Western. Directed by Sergio Leone.
12.25am **Sportsworld Extra**. Action from the British super-leatherweight title as Joey Jacobs defends his title against Hugh Forde, plus a review of the weekend's football news.
1.25am **The Keys of the Kingdom** (1944, b/w) starring George Formby, Thomas Mitchell and Vincent Price. When The Rev McNabb sees that Francis Chesham is torn between two loves - a woman and the priesthood - he suggests that he go to China as a missionary. Rambling adaptation of an A.J. Cronin novel which has really been engineered as a star vehicle for Peck, who does well in his first major role. Directed by John M. Stahl. Followed by **News headlines**.
4.00 **American College Football**. Pittsburgh play Syracuse.
5.00 **ITN Morning News** with Gilly Carter. Ends at 6.00.

CHANNEL 4

- 8.00 **The Art of Landscape**. Film of the natural world accompanied by music.
8.20 **Business Daily**.
8.30 **The Channel Four Daily**.
9.25 **Schools**.
12.00 **Anything Goes**. Paul Barnes and Anthea Turner visit Britain's top tourist attractions, some familiar, some undiscovered. In this programme they try out two different activities in north Staffordshire, there is a visit to the National Garden Festival in Gateshead and a look at a new sculpture trail in St. Clements (1).
12.30 **Business Daily** presented by Dermot Murtagh.
1.00 **Sesame Street**. Educational fun for pre-school children.
2.00 **Film: Jew Süss** (1934, b/w) starring Conrad Veidt, Frank Vosper and Bentli Hume. A complex story of racial intolerance adapted from Leon Feuchtwanger's novel. A Jewish ghetto dweller in 18th-century Wurtemburg uses a combination of cunning and ruthlessness to further the cause of his people. Directed by Lotte Reiniger.
4.00 **Vintage**. Hugh Johnson tells the story of wine, from its birth to its newest forms emerging from the hi-tech wineries of California and Australia (1).
4.30 **Fifteen-to-One**. William G. Stewart hosts the quiz show.
5.00 **The Late Late Show**. Dublin's music and chat show.
6.00 **Roseanne**. Sitcom starring Roseanne Barr as a housewife and mother who thrives on one-liners and raper-like wit. John Goodman is her loyal and understanding husband (1).
6.30 **Happy Days**. High-school comedy set in the Fifties. Fonzie falls in love with an older woman from a different social background, none of this dampens his ardour but, when he finds out she is married, the real problems come to light.
7.00 **Channel 4 News** with Jon Snow and Zensab Badawi.
7.50 **Commentary** followed by **Weather**.
8.00 **Brookside**. Liverpool soap that charts the trials and tribulations of the residents of a suburban cul-de-sac. (Teletext 1).
8.30 **Don't Quote Me**. Geoffrey Perkins hosts the last in the series of the panel game in which two teams battle to answer questions on propriety and prediction with guests who include Rory McGrath, John Biffen MP and Mark Lawson.

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- more on narrative than analysis and there is a reluctance to draw general conclusions. *The Death of Reason* follows the story of a man who is ostensibly democratic government and the guerrillas of Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path), in which at least 20,000 people have died. The film highlights Sendero's Marxist tactic of creating power vacuums in rural areas and attributes its rise to poverty and racism in a country where a minority of wealthy whites of European descent control the dark-skinned poor. Both sides have resorted to acts of terror and the real victims are the peasants, who have been oppressed and oppressed. Centrepiece Four-part thriller, stronger on theme than narrative, which spans three decades and follows a young man's search for the truth about his father, who apparently died in a car crash in 1979. Starring Bob Peck, John Goodman and Murray Close.
11.00 **Fresno**. A spoof soap, that could be a lot funnier, but still has its moments, based on the Californian tins industry and two warring families. Starring Dabney Coleman.
12.00 **Evil: Confronting Evil**. Last in the series that examines why we are tempted, tempted and tempted by evil. The programme looks at the atrocities committed in the second world war and tries to discover what makes people such as Dennis Misen and Peter Sutcliffe become mass murderers. (Teletext 1).
1.00am **Fortunata e Jacinta**. Episode seven of the ten-part adaptation of Benito Perez Galdos' novel, which tells the story of two women who love the same man, one his wife, the other his mistress (1). Ends at 2.00.

RADIO 3

- 6.55am **Weather and News** Headlines.
7.00 **Morning Concert**: The English Concert under Patrick, with Alfred Brendel, piano, performs Liszt (Les Jeux d'eau à la Villa d'Este), Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra under Claudio Abbado.
7.30 **News**.
7.35 **Morning Concert** (cont): The Philharmonia Orchestra under Gulian performs (The Tenebrae, Magnificat), City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra under Sir Simon Rattle, performs (Pavane, Concerto), David Thomas, piano, and Ben Brown, piano, perform (Nelson Two Fantasies, Op 2), Royal Opera House Orchestra under Emmer performs *Aranytut* (Variations on a Theme by Tchaikovsky).
8.30 **News**.
8.35 **Composers of the Week**: Steve Reich. Pat Metheny, guitar, performs *Electric Counterpoint*; Russ Hurlenberger, with the composer, performs *Climbing Music*; Maril Titus and Edmund Neumann, piano, perform *Piano Piece*; Sherr Guberman, violin, performs *Violin Piece*.
9.35 **Shades of Night and Day**: Herbert Weisingberg and Raphael Leone, Rules, Robert Freund, Alois Scher, horns, perform *Haydn* (Nocturns for two flutes and two horns, H 11 D5); Marica Creighton, violin, Christopher van Kampen, cello, and Clifford Benson, piano, perform Schubert (*Adagio in E-flat*, Nocturno, D 912); The Cleveland Orchestra under Neumann, with Vera Soukupova, mezzo, performs *Schubert* (*Adagio in E-flat*, Nocturno, D 912); The Cleveland Orchestra under Neumann, with Vera Soukupova, mezzo, performs *Schubert* (*Adagio in E-flat*, Nocturno, D 912).
10.00 **News**.
10.05 **Classical Concert**: Live from St. John's, Smith Square. Robert Holl, bass-baritone, and Rudolf Jensen, piano, perform (Symphony No. 10, Op 48; An die Hoffnung, Op 94; Schubert (Hymne à l'Estimé; Nachsymphonie; Pfaffen (Three Sonnets, Op 41).
10.25 **Third Canon** (1).
10.50 **The BBC Concert Orchestra** under John Ashley. Lawrence performs excerpts from Paul Hindemith's ballet *Hobson's Choice*. Cello and Violoncello: Sebastian Combert and Caroline Corral perform Helena Liebmann (Sonata for Cello and Piano, Op 37).
11.00 **News**.
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8.00 **News**.
8.05 **Classical**

● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 23-28
● EDUCATION 30,31
● LAW 32
● SPORT 33-38

BUSINESS

MONDAY OCTOBER 22 1990

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

Barclays denies reports of split

By Neil Bennett
Banking Correspondent

THE chairman of Barclays Bank has given warning that reports of the bank's plans to split into two "threatens to create a false market in its shares".

Sir John Quinlan said stories of the split were wrong "both in fact and in the inferences drawn". The reports arose after details leaked from a report on the bank from McKinsey, the management consultant.

The report is thought to suggest that Barclays should divide into a high street retail bank and a global corporate bank. McKinsey's report is due to be presented to a planning conference of the bank's 300 top executives next week. Until then it is intended to be seen by executive directors alone.

Sir John however dismissed the possibility of dividing the bank: "Barclays is not splitting into two banks," he said, "we are not selling off either of them. Our domestic and international banking operations are not moving apart but are in fact moving together."

Sir John told Barclays shareholders to take no action on the rumours. He also rejected a suggestion that the bank would like to hold a rights issue. "Barclays is one of the strongest capitalised banks in the world and we have no intention to ask for further equity capital."

The McKinsey report is one of several surveys Barclays has commissioned to find a more efficient structure. The report is believed to list different ways for the bank to simplify its operations. Corporate and retail banking are becoming increasingly different, and a division would allow each section to concentrate without duplication of resources.

Parretti 'close' to MGM deal

From Philip Robinson
In Los Angeles

GIANCARLO Parretti, the Italian financier, is expected to announce today he has raised the \$1 billion needed to complete the purchase of MGM United Artists, the Hollywood studio he has been trying to buy for almost nine months.

He has until tomorrow to close the deal. A Parretti spokesman said yesterday: "We are highly confident we can complete this on time."

Signor Parretti has already paid a non-refundable deposit of \$353 million. The \$1 billion balance is expected to come from sales of European property and farmland to raise \$300 million. A further \$250 million was expected from pre-sales of MGM films. These have yet to be announced.

Of the remaining \$300 million, Turner Broadcasting is expected to pay \$200 million for certain film rights, \$100 million is expected from an unnamed Japanese investor and \$200 million was said to be coming in \$50 million parcels from investors in four European countries.

THE POUND

CHANGE ON WEEK
US dollar 1.9835 (-0.0110)
W German mark 2.9505 (-0.0452)
Exchange index 94.5 (-1.5)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1621.5 (-0.5)
FT-SE 100 2089.0 (-11.4)
New York Dow Jones 2520.79 (+122.77)
Tokyo Nikkei Avg 24481.49 (+2091.33)

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Rate
Australia	2.51	2.51
Austria	2.51	2.51
Belgium	2.51	2.51
Canada	2.51	2.51
Denmark	2.51	2.51
France	2.51	2.51
Germany	2.51	2.51
Greece	2.51	2.51
Italy	2.51	2.51
Japan	2.51	2.51
Netherlands	2.51	2.51
Portugal	2.51	2.51
Spain	2.51	2.51
Sweden	2.51	2.51
Switzerland	2.51	2.51
Turkey	2.51	2.51
USA	2.51	2.51
Yugoslavia	2.51	2.51

Storm warning issued for Europe's insurance industry

By Wolfgang Münchau
European Business Correspondent

EUROPE's insurance industry is in for a rough ride over the next few years, according to the head of Zürich Insurance, Europe's second largest insurance company.

In an interview with *The Times*, Rolf Häppi, chief general manager of the group, said the eventual single European market in insurance will reduce the profit margins of the whole industry and will lead to the disappearance of smaller insurance companies.

"The European insurance industry has to get used to a situation under which it can no longer count on a cosy business environment, and it will have to live with smaller margins. Many companies have based their business on artificial market conditions, but these will disappear."

Häppi said the reduction in profit margins and the abolition of currently artificial market conditions will lead to further concentration in the industry. He indicated that Zürich Insurance will participate actively in the process. "We can count on further mergers and takeovers in the industry. I believe that the reduction of suppliers (insurance companies) will be significant," he said.

The tendency will be felt throughout Europe, and in particular in the Efta countries, including Switzerland, where a number of smaller local companies operate for which an opening to the EC market is likely to prove fatal. Efta is negotiating

with the EC over a European free trade zone, under which many of the EC's single market directives could apply in Efta. Although the negotiations are in difficulties because of Efta's wish to have a say in EC decision making, it is widely expected that a deal will be agreed well before the end of 1992, when most of the EC's single market directives will be enforced.

Häppi said that Swiss membership of the European Community would accelerate the problems for many smaller Swiss insurance companies, although the larger multinational groups would not be affected since they have been operating in the EC through subsidiaries for a number of years. He argued that the change in market regulation will be one of the most

important factors affecting the industry. "I am convinced... that we will move away from the regulated [national] market, the insurance regulators, and from insurance cartels over a period of time. I am also convinced that the trend will be towards worldwide insurance regulation which will result in a new competitive situation."

But the speed at which these pressures will affect the industry will differ between the insurance sectors. Already the EC Commission has issued two non-life directives, affecting in particular large risk insurance products which will have to be accepted throughout the EC from 1993 as long as they are approved in the insurance company's home country. The scope is smaller for life insurance products, which can be bought but not marketed in other

EC countries, unless with the permission of the domestic regulatory authorities. The UK insurance industry, in particular, had high hopes that an open European insurance market would allow the better priced British life insurance products to compete in the Continent.

"I think that initially the effect of 1992 will be strongest felt in the non-life business," Häppi said. The next market segment will be non-life personal insurance (ie accident, travel insurance). In the life-business a Euro-insurance is possible in certain limited areas. But one has to bear in mind that life insurance policy is often tied to a local or national social security insurance. So life insurance will not be affected [by 1992] in the first phase [of deregulation]."

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Bankers expect Polly to go into administration

By Neil Bennett, Banking Correspondent

BANKERS to Polly Peck International expect the fruit trading and electronics group to be placed in administration this week as a result of pressure from holders of £50 million of its commercial paper.

The commercial paper holders are due to meet the company in the City today or tomorrow, to discuss what action they should take. Bankers at the weekend said they expected they would demand repayment of the debts that officially became due three weeks ago.

Asil Nadir, PPI's chairman, flew to Northern Cyprus from Turkey yesterday, in a desperate attempt to release funds from the island to save the company from collapse. He is expected to leave this morning. One source close to the company said the funds should be released within the next 48 hours.

"The commercial paper holders are pretty weighted in their resolve to put the company into administration," said one of PPI's bankers. There are about 100 commercial paper holders, a mix of financial institutions and industrial companies that trade with PPI. If the group goes into administration, they will rank high in the order of creditors.

PPI's banks are unlikely to protect PPI from administration since it is said to have broken its assurances made

when it was granted a four-week standstill on its debts. One banker said the banks' steering committee, which comprises ten of PPI's most important creditors, had lost patience with the company.

The company had earlier promised bankers to repay up to £140 million of its debt mountain of almost £1 billion by drawing on cash deposits in Turkey and Northern Cyprus. But so far it has failed to meet a set timetable of repayments.

PPI had also promised to give Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, the accountant, full access to its financial details round the world.

Coopers is preparing a report on PPI's financial situation and viability for the banks' next scheduled meeting on November 9. But banks now say it is having difficulty obtaining the information it wants on the company's activities in Cyprus.

One source close to the company blamed Coopers for the problem, since when its executives first arrived in the Turkish part of Cyprus they used the name Cork Gully with the Turkish authorities. This was to avoid antagonising the Greeks in southern Cyprus, where Coopers has a successful practice. Cork Gully is the name of Coopers' liquidation and receivership specialist and the northern Cypriot banks were unwilling to co-operate with it.

Richard Stone, Coopers' head of corporate finance, who is leading the investigation,

was in Cyprus this weekend with Mr Nadir to try to discover the extent of group assets there.

Polly Peck was unable to comment on any friction with its bankers. "As far as we are concerned we assume the standstill is in place until November 9," a spokesman said.

Polly Peck's bankers have braced themselves for the company's collapse, which would cause further heavy bad debt provisions. Standard Chartered has the largest exposure, estimated to be £50 million. Much of its lending is thought to be secured, and the worst case loss for the bank will be less than £20 million.

If Polly Peck does go into administration, it will be one of the largest corporate collapses in British history. Less than three months ago the group was valued at more than £2 billion on the stock market.

Since then the company has been hit by speculation that the Serious Fraud Office was investigating possible insider dealing in its shares. On September 20, the shares collapsed from 245p to 108p and were then suspended. The SFO raided the offices of South Audley Management, a company with connections to Mr Nadir.

Polly Peck, and Mr Nadir himself, have since admitted to liquidity problems, and the shares remain suspended. If the company fails, more than 20,000 shareholders are almost certain to lose their entire investment.

Lakeside ready for princess

PETER TREHORN



THE inside of the central dome of the Lakeside Shopping Centre at West Thurrock, Essex, is checked by Ian White in preparation for Thursday's opening by Princess Alexandra (Matthew Bond writes). The dome lies at the centre of a three-level mall, which

runs the equivalent distance of Oxford Street, from Oxford Circus to Marble Arch.

Apart from being the newest shopping centre in Britain, Lakeside is one of the biggest with about 180 retailers occupying more than one million sq ft. There is parking for

9,000 cars and 250 coaches. Lakeside has cost Capital & Counties, the developer, about £350 million to build. More than 80 per cent of the retail space is let to tenants such as Marks & Spencer, Debenhams, Lewis' and House of Fraser.

Recession fears are strongest in South

PETER TREHORN

ABOUT 75 per cent of British businessmen think the country is about to plunge into a recession, reports a survey by 3i, the venture capital group (Wolfgang Münchau writes).

Recession fears are most pronounced in the south of England, while "the outlook becomes slightly less gloomy in proportion to their distance away from the Southeast".

The survey indicates that unemployment will continue as companies will employ, on average, 1 per cent less staff by the end of the year, compared with 1989. Larger companies in the South plan to lay off proportionally more staff than their counterparts in the North and in Scotland.

David Marlow, 3i chief executive, said: "The relatively better performance outside the south of England is significant because in previous recessions the North has tended to fare worse. This may reflect radical restructuring of the old industrial heartlands."

About 34 per cent of southern companies expect investment to fall, and only 15 per cent say they will invest more during the next quarter. This contrasts sharply with the North and Scotland, where most companies expect no change in total investment.

The survey used a random sample of 1,000 companies in the 3i portfolio, and was conducted shortly before sterling entered the European exchange-rate mechanism.

Despite the gloom expressed by respondents, the survey is still more optimistic than those conducted by the Confederation of British Industry.

Mr Marlow gives warning, however, that companies in which 3i invests are more optimistic than the average, but the fact that many of them are now marketing time is a measure of the current economic challenges faced by the UK.

EC wants East European fund

From Peter Guilford
In Brussels

THE European Commission is stepping up pressure on the world's richest nations to create a special rescue fund for Eastern Europe. Officials fear economic hardship, provoked by the Gulf dispute, could otherwise trigger a collapse of economic and political reform in the region.

Brussels will test the idea with EC foreign ministers in Luxembourg today and again with the 12 government leaders in Rome at the weekend. A positive response will strengthen its chances of convincing the group of 24 industrialised nations that would supply the aid. Top level G24 talks will take place in Brussels on October 30. Meanwhile, Jacques Delors, the Commission president, received a delegation from the Soviet Union led by Stepan



Delors met delegation Sitaryan, deputy prime minister, who gave an account of newly approved plans to draw the crumbling Soviet economy closer to the market place.

M Delors is understood to have parried Soviet calls for emergency financial help by agreeing to deliver an analysis of the Soviet economy to EC

leaders at their Rome summit. But the issue of actual aid - the original motive for calling the summit - is likely to be deferred.

Senior officials privately admit that Eastern Europe is a more burning issue than the Soviet Union for the community. Soaring oil prices, lost export markets and unpaid debts have conspired to deprive the East collectively of some £3.5 billion this year. The thrust of the EC's proposed fund would be to sustain the switch to currency convertibility, and to underpin other fragile economic reforms. If they agree to the move, EC leaders will be anxious to avoid overlapping with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Brussels still needs to convince its G24 partners that a special fund for Eastern Europe would stave off col-

lapse rather than merely perpetuating inefficiency. But there is a growing consensus among EC states that the Soviet Union is too politically volatile, and too poorly served by accurate statistics to warrant a large scale bail-out by the Community.

"The other (EC countries) are gradually coming round to the British view that such funding at present would be wasted," said one British official.

In partial compensation, the Soviet Union may be offered a place in a proposed pan-European energy pact. Originally the brainchild of Rudi Lubbers, the Dutch prime minister, the plan has won British backing. Dumas, the French foreign minister, is expected to canvass further support for the energy pact among his EC colleagues in Luxembourg today.

UK more prone to inflation spurts

By Anatole Kaletsky
Economics Editor

THE British economy seems to have become more susceptible to spurts of inflation despite the widespread industrial deregulation and the improvements in the functioning of labour markets introduced over the past decade. This is the main implication of a study published in the *Treasury Bulletin* today.

The study finds that the Treasury's economic model consistently underestimated inflation in the second half of the Eighties. The model also underpredicted imports and overestimated exports throughout the past few years. However, these biases could not be attributed to any special faults in the Treasury's forecasting methods, since similar mistakes were consistently being made in other models run by the private sector.

"The general impact of the pressure of demand on inflation seemed to have got bigger after 1985 than in the historical period," Sir Terence Burns, the government's chief economic adviser, told a press conference introducing the Tre-

sury study. Sir Terence noted that labour costs appeared to have been less important than profit margins in explaining recent inflation. Excess demand in 1988 and 1989 had worked its way through to profits and prices faster than predicted by the Treasury model. This was a sign of the increasing flexibility of the corporate sector, he argued. It might imply that both inflation and profits would fall more rapidly than usual in response to the present weak state of demand.

The Treasury concluded that the fundamental explanation for the poor performance of all econometric models in recent years was the unprecedented scale of borrowing by private individuals and companies from 1985 onwards. The borrowing and consumption boom led to a deterioration in the private sector's financial balance unprecedented since 1920 and this, in turn, was responsible for much stronger domestic demand growth than the Treasury had forecast.

One probable explanation of the enormous swing from saving to borrowing was financial liberalisation, according to Sir Terence. But such identifiable

factors were not enough to account for the unexpected jump in inflation in 1988 and 1989.

In a separate article in today's *Bulletin*, the Treasury studied the impact of a \$10-a-barrel increase in the oil price on the British and international economies.

It concluded that the retail price index would suffer a once-and-for-all increase of about 1/3 per cent, while gross domestic product would be roughly 1/4 per cent lower than otherwise after two years.

For the world as a whole, inflation might rise by 1 to 1 1/2 percentage points in the first year, but the increase would tail off rapidly, leaving no impact after three years. World GDP growth would be retarded by about 1/2 percentage point annually for three years.

UK balance of payments figures for September, due out today, are expected to show little change in the current account deficit of £1.3 billion reported for August. A slight deterioration, due to a smaller contribution from "erratic" exports, is considered possible.

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Economists predict sharp fall in growth of German GNP

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU
EUROPEAN BUSINESS
CORRESPONDENT

GERMANY'S five leading economic institutes are predicting a sharp fall in gross national product growth to 2.5 per cent this year, and a further decline to 2 per cent in 1991, because of the recession in eastern Germany.

The autumn edition of the so-called "five wise men" report also gives warning of markedly higher inflation as a result of rising oil prices and increased wage demands.

If the findings prove right, this would end hopes that Germany could again play the role of an economic locomotive, able to pull other European economies out of recession, as it did at the end of the Seventies.

The report, which is officially published today, has already come under attack from Helmut Haussmann, the German economics minister, who was commenting on press leaks of the findings.

Herr Haussmann said the report was, as usual, too pessimistic, since the institutes have often underestimated the strength of the



Haussmann: institutes "too pessimistic"

German economy. In their last report, published in the spring, the institutes predicted GNP would rise by 3.75 per cent this year, which stands against government estimates of about 4 per cent, the same as last year.

The government expects output to rise by 3 per cent next year. Current indications are that inflationary expectations are beginning to fuel wage demands in Germany.

Volkswagen, the country's largest car manufacturer and a

wage trend-setter in Germany's large metal industry, is faced with demands from IG Metall, the metal workers union, for wage rises of more than 8 per cent, which is around 5 per cent ahead of inflation.

The unions have also pledged to achieve comparable wage levels in the eastern part of the country, despite markedly lower productivity there.

On interest rates, expectations of increases would be fuelled if war broke out in the Gulf. Fighting in the region would probably lead to a sustained higher level of oil prices.

The government's rejection of the five wise men's report is consistent with its message that the costs of unification can be financed with only the minimum of sacrifices by the German taxpayer.

The government, which is likely to be returned to power after the elections on December 2, has been able to play down criticisms by the opposition Social Democrats, whose warnings over the costs of unification have so far fallen on deaf ears.

Business guaranteed a room



Privileged customers: Rocco Forte and Alan Hearn discuss their reservation scheme for business travellers

ROCCO Forte, chief executive of Trusthouse Forte, and Alan Hearn, managing director of Trusthouse Forte hotels, today take the lid off Business Guarantee, a new scheme launched for business travellers (Jon Ashworth writes).

Those who make their reservations at least 48 hours in advance are guaranteed a room at more than 250 hotels in the UK, even if they are fully booked. If

necessary, non-business travellers will be moved to nearby hotels to make space. A free ten-page national fax or telex is thrown in, along with a complimentary daily newspaper and free parking at provincial hotels.

An express check-out service is included to help travellers on their way, and bookings may be cancelled up to 6pm on the day of arrival at no extra cost. "This is a unique guarantee for the

business traveller which we can give because of our strength throughout the UK," said Mr Hearn. The scheme will be extended to other countries before the end of the year, taking in the Hotel George V in Paris and the Westbury in New York, among others.

In Britain, Trusthouse Forte owns the Post House network, and purchased the Crest hotel chain from Bass for £300 million this year.

Norpak sold off in Corton break-up

By NEIL BENNETT

THE break-up of Corton Beach, the collapsed meat-trading, motor and leisure group, has begun just ten days after it was put into receivership.

Price Waterhouse, the administrative receiver, has sold Norpak, Corton's frozen-food wholesaler, to Sims Foods for an undisclosed sum. Norpak's customers, mainly co-operative associations, had threatened to remove their business unless the company was sold quickly.

Tony Brereton, a Price Waterhouse partner, said: "This sale effectively keeps the fridges running." Sims beat other companies to buying Norpak after sending its own executives to check the company's books. The food group is thought to have paid a nominal figure due to the urgency of the disposal.

Norpak was the largest of Corton's food companies, with sales of £50 million forecast in the year to end-January, although it had a low asset base. Mr Brereton hopes to find a buyer shortly for Tranco, another offshoot, while several companies were interested in Freezrite, a chain of freezer centres.

Corton went into receivership on October 11, after it failed to agree a refinancing package with its bankers.

Foseco fights bid with break-up plan

By OUR CITY STAFF

FOSECO is in the final stages of preparing a far-reaching "unbundling" proposal for its shareholders as a defence against the £236 million hostile takeover bid from Burnham, Castrol, the oil and chemicals group.

The unbundling plan has been in preparation for the past six months, say sources close to the company, but is being completed as a matter of urgency in an attempt to derail the Burnham offer, which was launched last week.

The idea came from Tom Long, the new chairman of Foseco, who was due to take over the top job from the beginning of next month but has now taken day-to-day control of Foseco's defence.

Mr Long was a main board director at BAT, the conglomerate that resorted to an unbundling exercise when it was fighting the bid from Hoylake.

Burnham is known to be keen to sell off the abrasives business, and Foseco is pinning its

hopes on convincing shareholders they would do better by sticking with Foseco, to gain the benefits of a sale, than by selling out to Burnham.

Internal documents have put the potential value of the abrasives division at more than £130 million, equivalent to more than half the value of the Burnham bid.

The defence document will be likely to argue that such increases in value should be retained for the benefit of Foseco shareholders, rather than handed over to Burnham.

Bankers have advised Foseco that the best defence will have to revolve around the long-term potential, as the short-term trading picture is not encouraging.

Foseco's poor short-term prospects are thought to have played a crucial part in the relative ease with which Caze-nove, acting for Burnham, acquired a stake of 10.6 per cent in a dawn raid on the day the bid was launched.

Doubt over scope of Caparo rule

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT,
FINANCIAL EDITOR

A DECISION in the Court of Appeal has called into question the scope of the Caparo judgment, which appeared to rule that auditors and other advisers to a company subject to a takeover had no responsibility to the acquiring company.

Morgan Crucible, which is attempting to sue advisers to First Castle Electronics, a company it bought in 1986, has been given leave to bring an amended action despite the ruling in the Caparo case.

Morgan's case, which is expected to come to the High Court in January, will now relate to representations made by or approved by the advisers in the course of the takeover bid. The representations complained of by Caparo were made before the takeover.

The Morgan case will eventually decide how far the restriction on liability in the Caparo ruling applies.

ICI stays silent on Tioxide

By OUR CITY STAFF

IMPERIAL Chemical Industries (ICI) refused to confirm or deny weekend press reports saying it would buy out the remaining 50 per cent of Tioxide, a maker of paint pigments, for about £150 million. The stake is owned by Cookson Group, the specialist chemical firm trying to reduce its high gearing.

Shares in Cookson, one of the best UK stocks during the 1980s, have fallen by more than 75 per cent this year due to concerns over the company's financial health. They closed at 70p on Friday. Cookson has been acquisitive in recent years, and is suffering high debt-servicing costs.

ICI recently announced a plan to cut investment next year by £100 million. The reported purchase price for the Tioxide stake is perceived to be low.

Reporting This Week, page 27

Oversupply of oil tankers forecast

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Gulf confrontation threatens to slow growth in demand for oil tankers just as the tonnage under construction has reached its highest level since the late 1970s.

An oversupply of ships will probably develop during 1991 and stretch into 1992, says *Crane Research Studies* (CRS) in its half-yearly review of worldwide shipping trends.

Shipowners have been encouraged to order new tankers by a recovery in demand. The world tanker fleet is becoming very long in the tooth.

According to CRS, 47 per cent of tankers are regarded as being "over-age" - at more than 15 years old.

Thanks to high Opec output during the first half of the year, almost every available ship was in service for the first time since the early 1970s, says CRS. A brief hiatus in the wake of Iraq's invasion of

Kuwait has been replaced by hardening charter rates as oil production from Saudi Arabia has risen, compensating for lost Iraqi and Kuwaiti output.

But the period charter market has gone slack after a sharp improvement in rates earlier in the year.

The slowdown contrasts with a rapid increase in the number of tankers on order over the past three years.

During the first half of 1988, only 33 vessels, totalling 2.7 million dead weight tonnes (dwt), were on order. In the six months to June, there were 112 tankers on order, totalling 18.1 million dwt.

CRS says the threat of American legislation to require all tankers serving US ports to be of a double-skin construction, intended to cut spillage in the event of collision or grounding, acted as a spur to owners.



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ECONOMIC VIEW

ANATOLE KALETSKY

As the chancellor stood up to make his annual speech at the Mansion House last Thursday, the pound fell below DM2.95, the government lost the Eastbourne by-election and the other 11 members of the European Community agreed on a date for monetary union — with Britain or without it.

These four events were not unconnected. After the dangerous decision to enter the exchange-rate mechanism at a deliberately overvalued rate, confidence in the government's economic policies was at a low ebb by Thursday, not only in the City and in Europe but also among the British public. Yet the main message of John Major's Mansion House speech was that the government's economic philosophy remained irrevocably fixed: the over-riding objective was to eradicate inflation; this would be achieved by making a cast-iron commitment to a pre-announced financial target, in this case a strong pound.

Unfortunately for Mr. Major, the number of true believers in this approach seems to be dwindling daily. Yet confidence has

been the alpha and omega of Mrs Thatcher's economic philosophy ever since the Seventies, when Sir Keith Joseph introduced her to the "rational expectations" school of monetarists. These people argued that inflation could be rapidly and relatively painlessly reduced by any government that could convince economic decision-makers of its implacable determination to stick to monetary targets. Once workers, managers and investors realised the government would not bail them out by printing money, they would give up their inflationary habits. The newly virtuous behaviour would be rapidly rewarded with stable prices and steady growth.

In the dark days of 1981, the faith in rational expectations took on the comical intensity of desperation. I well remember one of the Treasury's advisers arguing privately that Mrs Thatcher's fanatical media image would be a boon for economic policy: "If

people think she's mad, they'll finally believe that she will stop at nothing to hit the monetary targets."

But it was not to be. The Resolute Approach was fine for winning wars against Argentina and beating Arthur Scargill. But as a way of managing a modern economy it simply did not work. It was not just in Britain but, even more importantly, in America that single-target monetarism was gradually abandoned in favour of a pragmatic type of interest and exchange rate management. This had more similarities to traditional Keynesian demand management than to the inflexibility of rational expectations. Given the past experience of

pragmatic changes in the government's economic policies, to say nothing of the imminence of a general election, it is by no means rational for people to believe that sterling will never be devalued simply because the government has joined the ERM. As for the chancellor's attempts to assure the markets that he will not cut interest rates until it is "safe" to do so, this only feeds the misgivings.

There is a fundamental contradiction between the old monetarist promise to put economic policy-making on an inflationary autopilot and the constant references to refined personal judgments on the state of the economy made not only by the British chancellor, but by

every other leading policymaker around the world these days. The fact is that seat-of-the-pants fine-tuning has returned with a vengeance not only in Britain and America, but also in Germany and Japan.

There is, however, a crucial element missing from the new type of economic fine-tuning, especially as it is practised in the Anglo-Saxon countries. While the intellectual content of monetarism has been effectively abandoned, the political commitment to using monetary policies alone has remained. The tax and credit policies that were a vital part of the economic toolbox in the Keynesian period of demand management have been deliberately thrown away. As a result, the policymakers in Britain and America have had only two policy instruments — interest rates and exchange rates — to try to influence a multiplicity of objectives, including inflation, unemployment and

the balance of payments. On closer inspection, even these two instruments proved to be tied together in an awkward fashion, since interest and exchange rates have an extremely close interaction in a world without exchange controls.

As long as monetarist thinking was in the ascendant, this did not seem a problem. For the core of the monetarist belief was that controlling inflation should be the government's sole macro-economic concern. One instrument, whether monetary targets, interest rates or exchange rates, should be sufficient to hit this target. But few are willing to accept this abdication of responsibility any longer, either in the electorate or the financial markets. Whether he likes it or not, the chancellor is once again expected to fine-tune the British economic engine to achieve satisfactory performance on inflation, employment and the balance of payments, all at the same time. To do this, he will need the whole toolbox of fiscal, monetary and credit policies. The crowbar of a fixed exchange rate will not be enough.

TEMPUS

Crocodile tears as BIL bares its teeth

PAUL Collins, chief executive of Brierley Investments Ltd, Sir Ron Brierley's New Zealand holding company, is on the record as describing BIL's £644 million hostile bid for Mount Charlotte Investments as opportunistic and extremely unlikely to succeed.

Crocodiles have rarely wept more effectively tears. For there is a very real risk that BIL could be about to snap up a bargain in the tempting shape of Britain's second largest hotel group.

Everything about BIL's bid has been downhill since it was launched three weeks ago. For a start, it was obligatory, statutorily required after BIL bought the 10.1 per cent stake owned by the Kuwait Investment Office, a purchase that took its stake in Mount Charlotte up to 39.9 per cent.

Then there was the price. At 73p, it was only at a modest premium to Mount Charlotte's pre-bid share price. Mr Collins's comments made just a few days after the bid was launched just added to the impression that there was a bid that hardly needed defending. As takeover tactics go, it was unusual. It could also be very effective.

For make no mistake, this bid, even at its current level, does have teeth. The sharpest of these, as BIL, quietly pointed out last week, was that the price offered Mount Charlotte shareholders an exit price-earnings multiple of 14.6 times.

Robert Peel, Mount Charlotte's chief executive, is well aware of the danger. Because there has been no rush to complete the £200 million disposal programme he launched in the wake of last year's purchase of the Thistle chain, earnings per share have become Mount Charlotte's Achilles' heel. But Mr Peel knows that once the disposals have been completed, Mount Charlotte's previously impressive earnings per share record (growing at an annual compound rate of 28.4 per cent until this year) will resume. Therefore, he refuses to be rushed.

For now, his defence rightly



On the record: Paul Collins, chief executive of BIL

concentrates on the bid's 40 per cent discount to retained net assets of 122p a share. But here, too, there is no room for complacency. Only a few months ago, Laing Properties succumbed to an offer pitched at a previously unthinkable discount to net asset value of more than 20 per cent.

At 67p, shareholders should sit tight and await more information about the impact future disposals might have.

First Leisure

SIR Owen Green, veteran of many a well-timed takeover at BTR, was heard the other day giving the view that there will be bargain aplenty next spring. His theme was that share prices would then be reflecting a series of gloomy

reports on 1990 trading and the financial pressures arising from the government's anti-inflationary drive would be at their most severe.

One company's poison is another's meat. Those who have financed operations prudently through the downturn can expect an abundance of reasonably priced opportunities to buy.

This will be especially true in the leisure sector, characterised by an orgy of debt-financed expansion over the past few years. Some have already paid dearly and have gone to corporate limbo. Others, like Mecca, have been forced into the arms of rivals.

If cash is to be king, First Leisure will be one of the gainers. After last July's rights issue its balance sheet is free from strain. Gearing is around 25 per cent and interest cover running at more than six times.

The leisure business is not known for tight financial control, an aspect of management where First Leisure scores. Borrowings have been capped at 13.2 per cent until next October and the group has been using its financial muscle to secure some favourable long-term supply contracts especially for drinks, a significant area of costs.

First Leisure's good housekeeping has also been impressive with heavy spending on upgrading assets with swift benefits to revenues.

While 1991 should see fewer pressures on leisure spending, it will not be a vintage year. The rise in petrol prices may change spending patterns and mortgage payments will remain at historically high levels.

But First Leisure's profits should continue their progress with about £29 million expected this year against £25 million in 1989, and £35 million in the cards for 1991. The shares appear to have bottomed at around 162p earlier this month and are now building up solid support. At 178p they sell for a premium price ratio of 11.7 times. Worth it for the quality stock in the sector.

EC NOTEBOOK

Drug agency seen as a cure for ills caused by different national rules

THE EUROPEAN Commission has plans for a drug agency that will issue community-wide licences for new medicines. The idea is to end what Brussels calls the "mosaic" of national rules that can mean a drug is cleared in one country but blocked in another. All new veterinary drugs, or those devised biotechnologically, would need clearance from the agency before being marketed in the community. National bodies could still issue licences for other drugs, while gradually drawing their authorisation procedures closer together.

Brussels complains that after ten years of co-operation between the 12 drug licensing is still beset with confusion and overlap, penalising the European pharmaceutical industry and hampering exports. In most member countries it is "paralysed by criticism from consumer organisations and by the sheer number and complexity of cases to examine", the commission says.

The agency, which still needs the approval of EC governments, should start up in 1993 with a review six years later. It will comprise existing groups of scientific and medical experts from the member states, whose decision will be

made mandatory by a permanent secretariat controlled by the Brussels commission. It will keep an eye on national bodies, while leaving many decisions in their hands.

EUROPEAN steelmakers fear that President Bush could provoke a new trade war with the community by pushing too hastily for a free world market in steel. His plans to replace fixed bilateral quotas with broader ones agreed by

European companies are being taught how to tap the Japanese market in a guide produced for the commission by Booz, Allen & Hamilton, the management consultant.

The Japanese market is opening up to foreign investors, who in most cases need only obtain clearance from central, not regional government officials. The Japanese consumer is less xenophobic than often perceived, but he

tic markets rather than fighting to win new ones abroad. They can take twice as long as the Japanese to make a car, and are far too slow in designing new models.

In Munich last week, Herr Bangemann was trying to harden Europe's car industry to the abolition of national quotas that currently protect it from Japanese imports.

EC COUNTRIES are at odds over how to control the movement of firearms once trade barriers have disappeared. Under proposed rules, gun-owners would have to report to the police before taking weapons abroad. The information would be shared between all 12 police forces, but it is feared that Interpol's records, or those of other forces, could rapidly become saturated, putting more sensitive files at risk.

There are also fears that tough rules would straitjacket the arms trade. All arms makers would have to keep records of when they sold firearms and to whom. Britain, France, Germany, Belgium, Italy and Spain would need reassurance that fresh EC rules would dovetail with a broader convention on firearms, to which they are all signatories.

PETER GUILFORD

'Drug licensing is beset with confusion and overlap that penalises the European pharmaceutical industry'

"multilateral consensus" and eventually to phase out the lot, could prompt a flood of lawsuits from wary American producers accusing the Europeans of dumping steel on the American market.

An American team received a guarded response after flying to Brussels last week to sell the idea to the commission. EC steelmakers, too, President Bush's move could exacerbate the current downturn in the global steel market, where more steel mills are selling goods to fewer clients.

JAPANESE investment in Europe last year was 16 times greater than the other way. In an attempt to bridge this gap,

demands high quality, careful marketing and good after-sales service.

Foreign exporters should cultivate their Japanese distributors over long periods, without expecting short-term gains. The report concludes that foreigners should avoid soaring land and labour costs in Tokyo by setting up their operations further afield.

MARTIN Bangemann, Germany's senior commissioner to Brussels, has criticised the European motor industry, saying it is partly to blame for Japan's penetration of the European market. EC motor makers spend too much energy retaining their domes-

CAPITAL MARKETS

Tapping into ecu potential

A SHORT sentence tucked into the latter paragraphs of John Major's Mansion House speech signalled what may prove an historic development in world capital markets.

Mr Major said he was "giving consideration to an ecu bond issue, at the appropriate time, which would demonstrate further our attachment to the ecu and would strengthen London's important position in this rapidly growing market". A cautious and non-committal phrasing maybe, but one that clearly shows how far the Treasury's acceptance of the ecu has come.

Apart from the wider political considerations, the development of an ecu gilt market would mark London's claim as the natural centre of the

fastest-growing bond market in Europe. It has some way to catch up.

The French government has already issued five, seven and ten-year ecu-denominated bonds (OATs) and ecu OAT futures last week began trading on the French futures market, the Maf.

Indeed the French have displayed an enthusiasm for the ecu that is unlikely ever to be matched by the Treasury, let alone by Downing Street. This has been demonstrated by the fact that the yields on the ecu bonds issued so far have been higher than those the French treasury could achieve by issuing in French francs.

The Italians also have a head start on Britain, with three issues to date carrying a

total value of Ecu3.5 billion. And there has been a single Spanish issue for Ecu500 million. With such a high level of activity this year, the ecu bond market has been transformed from the familiar, steadily growing but really rather dull market of the Eighties.

As one enthusiastic analyst said: "The old ecu corporate bond market will continue to potter along. The ecu bond market of the future began this year."

Before this year the ecu bond market had been dogged by illiquidity as small corporate issues were snapped up by the legendary "Belgian dentist" and scarcely seen or heard of again. With minimal secondary trading, the issues were of little interest to the leading international, institu-

tional investors. One legacy of this history is the fact that the ecu market, though growing fast to its present level of almost Ecu90 million, is still overwhelmingly dominated by short-term issues. In fact, two thirds of the international issues outstanding are due to mature before 1994.

A real commitment to developing a longer-term market is therefore essential to maintaining the momentum of this year's developments.

A chunky 15-year ecu gilt would be a step in the right direction and may encourage some of the better-known British corporate names to follow suit.

JONATHAN PRYNN

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Terminal condition

GILES Varley, popular and able managing director and head of equities at Swiss Bank Corp. and a man who likes to spend most of his spare time shopping for colourful braces, has banned his underlings from playing computer games on their terminals to while away the hours during the continuing lull in trading. In a memorandum entitled "Difficult markets and computer games", Varley, aged 34, an Oxford rowing blue, stresses the need for all employees to be "creative and persistent in terms of ideas and generating transactions" given that revenues "are extremely hard to obtain". He goes on to say that, given the high costs involved in running a securities business, "I do not believe that computer games have any role to play during the working day." Varley, who previously worked for County NatWest and Salomon Brothers, and is clearly destined for greater things, concludes that all computer games are therefore banned. "Any person seen using a computer game will be given the opportunity to play these games all day long — but not at SBC," warns the ever-witty Varley.

Budget forecast

THE odds-on favourite day for next year's Budget is March 19. The reason for this prediction is that Patterson, Zochonis, the Cussons and Imperial Leather soap group

has chosen that day to produce its interim report — and for five out of the past six years PZ's interim report has come out on Budget day. "It really is just a coincidence," insists Alan Whitaker, PZ's finance director, who has seen off more Chancellors of the Exchequer than most.

Logica explanation

CITY analysts used to sifting through mounds of research material have been chucking over the latest report and accounts from Logica, the independent software house. For the company, which saw pre-tax profits halve last year, has picked chaos theory as the topic of its 1990 annual report. "It's the first time we've had chaos as a theme," says a spokeswoman, who adds that comments on the glossy brochure, filled with colourful



"They got the going rate — they've gone"

swirling pictures, have all been favourable. Analysts seeking clues to the change in Logica's fortunes are forced to decipher captions such as: "A solution to the Zakharov equations describes the electric field intensity in the ionosphere due to electro-magnetic driving by the Arecibo antenna." A novel approach, it continues, has been developed using fractal algorithms to achieve compression ratios of over 10,000 to 1. "Logica usually have the most interesting reports," says one electronics analyst, who adds that prospects for the company appear more hopeful in the months ahead. Each to their own.

SIGN in the window of a shop in Tunbridge Wells: "Contact lens found. See proprietor (if you can)."

Polished act

THE sudden sacking by Hoening Securities of two of its staff has had a curious effect on Nick Clough, hitherto a dealer at the soft commission house. For Clough, who was fired two weeks ago, has completely shaved his head — much to the horror of friends who feel that he is taking the affair too far. Thankfully, the reason for the move is nothing more sinister than a local production of *The King and I*, in which Clough has the starring role. "You could say it is a penance for not working in the City," says Clough, aged 46, who was once part of the traded options team at Smith New Court before joining

Hoening in 1989. "I have one or two interviews lined up, and have had to warn them about my appearance." Dealing aside, Clough also manages the stock exchange cricket club, which has just returned from a successful tour of Portugal. "We beat the opposition by a considerable margin on the field and in the bar," he adds.

Pole position

SOLICITORS are usually quick to spot an opportunity to do business, especially where Eastern Europe is concerned. But few could be cannier than Brian Clark, senior corporate partner at Nabarro Nathanson, who is leading efforts to boost business in Poland and the Soviet Union. Clark was spotted in full cry at the Royal Albert Hall recently during the Thousand Voices Festival of male choirs, of which he is a vice-president. And he was joined by Sergei Vladimirov, a popular Moscow musician who owns and plays 300 musical instruments. "He hopes this will qualify him for the Guinness Book of Records," says Clark, aged 54, who has his eye on some potentially lucrative projects in the Soviet Union. The firm, which sponsored the pre-concert reception, has wasted little time forging new links. It is helping the Polish government create a new legal framework to allow land previously owned by the state to pass into private hands.

CAROL LEONARD

LSE tax expert joins the Bank

PROFESSOR Mervyn King, a leading expert on taxonomic policy and corporate finance from the London School of Economics, has been appointed chief economist and executive director of the Bank of England.

He replaces John Fleming, who announced last month that he would be taking a senior post at the new European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Although Mr King has specialised in microeconomic issues rather than monetary and exchange-rate policy, his macroeconomic background is closer to the Keynesian than the monetarist tradition. In 1981 he was a signatory of the letter from 364 leading British economists attacking the government for its recessionary policies. Friends say, however, that he later regretted signing the protest, and in the past few years he has been a frequent adviser to the Treasury on tax matters. He is said to have been the main author of the personal savings incentives introduced in the last Budget.

In terms of political outlook, Mr King is said to be a centrist, who believes that



King: adviser to Treasury

government has an important role in social and industrial policy, but should generally try to do this by improving market mechanisms. Mr King was educated at King's College, Cambridge, and Harvard. He was at one time a member of the Cambridge Department of Applied Economics headed by Wynne Godley, one of Margaret Thatcher's most vociferous academic critics. He later went to Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology before becoming a professor at Birmingham.

ANATOLE KALETSKY

MORTGAGE RATE

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British deal marks beginning of Soviet aerospace exports to EC

Sailplane lands in record book

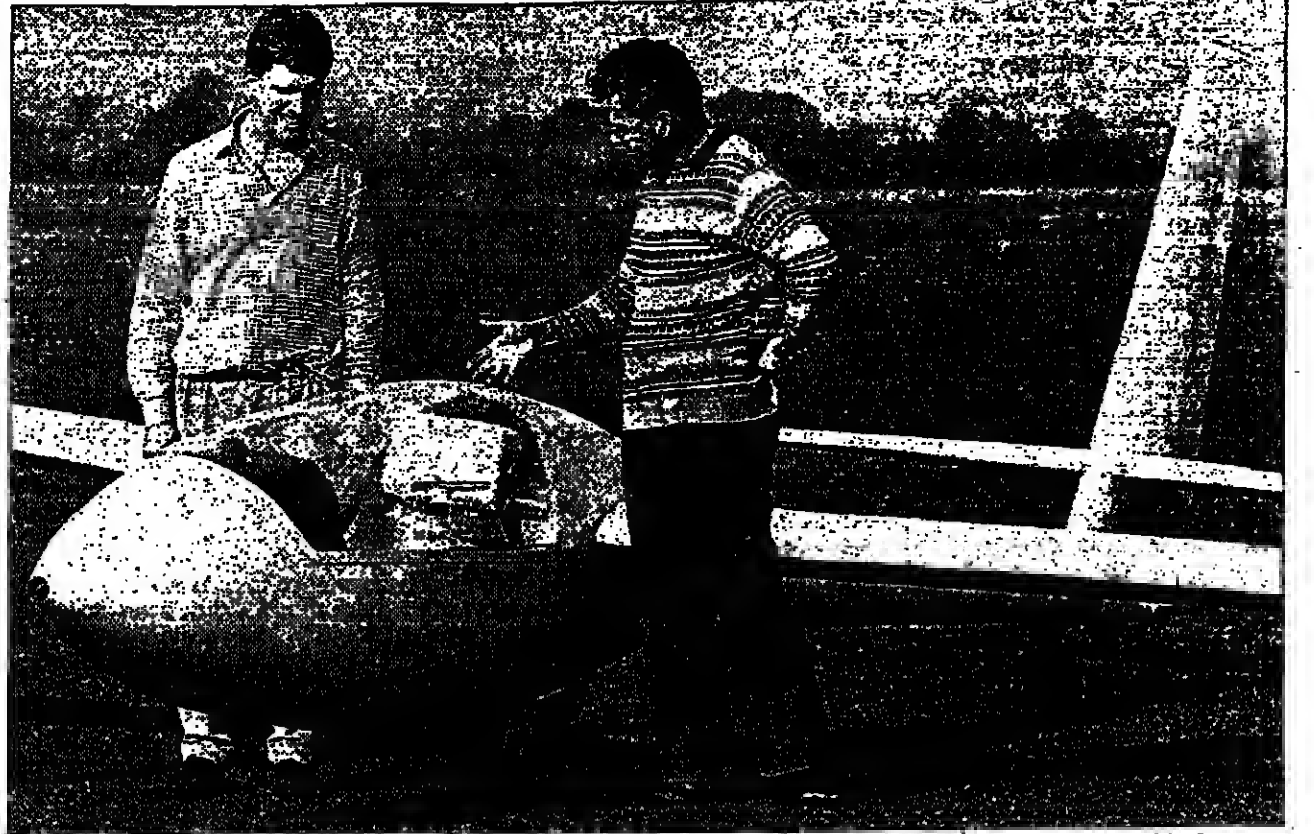
THE first Soviet aircraft sold directly into Britain was handed over to its new owner at RAF Halton, Buckinghamshire on Saturday, marking the beginning of Russian aerospace exports to the European Community. The Lithuanian-built LAK-12 high-performance sailplane is the first of up to 60 a year which a new firm at Market Harborough, Leicestershire hopes to sell throughout Europe in a strong challenge to Germany's total domination of the world market for competition gliders.

Complete with instruments, rigging aids and a glass-fibre road trailer, the LAK-12, which has a wing span of 67 feet, cost Michael Wilshire, an engineer, only £22,700 freight and VAT paid.

Lithuania's 25-year-old Sportine Aviacija, the largest producer of sailplanes and sporting aircraft in the USSR, is one of the 20,000 Soviet enterprises recently freed to negotiate their own foreign deals.

It believes it can match the German's technical and production capabilities at little more than half the cost and is following up its challenge in competition gliders with powered light aircraft too.

Over 160 LAK-12s like that delivered to Mr Wilshire at the weekend have been built in recent years for use throughout the Soviet Union and Eastern bloc. A highly competitive derivative of even greater wingspan, 84 feet, is in flight test for delivery



Flying first: Frank Pozerskis' son Tony, a Baltic Sailplanes director, with Michael Wilshire and his LAK-12

next spring. Lithuanian-born Frank Pozerskis, for more than 30 years one of Britain's leading competition soaring pilots, is spearheading the Lithuanians' export efforts with his new company, Baltic Sailplanes.

At 63, Mr Pozerskis recently competed in his 30th national championship. Since arriving as a penniless refugee in 1947

when he sold firewood door-to-door he has built a thriving timber import and sawmilling business at Kettering, Northamptonshire. Sportine Aviacija invited him over last year for his first visit to his homeland since he left 46 years ago and asked him to become its European agent.

His command of the lan-

guage, his competition experience and business record commended him. "They have the competence and facilities to match the Germans but they have no knowledge of Western-style marketing whatsoever," he says.

"I stressed three key requirements - on-time delivery, faultless spares backing and an impeccable standard of

ROBERT RODWELL

GILT-EDGED

ERM honeymoon still has some romance left

There are two particularly contentious issues in the gilt-edged market at present - the outlook for base rates, and the timing of new issues by the Bank of England. Both point to a marked change in the shape of the yield curve.

Much of the analysis of sterling membership of the European exchange-rate mechanism has referred to a honeymoon period of a firm pound and falling interest rates. At the end of last week, sterling was the weakest currency in the ERM. The honeymoon appeared to be over and the sober business of living with the ERM regime had started.

The original idea of a honeymoon phase was that initially ERM entry would not be a constraint on policy. The pound was expected to stay well clear of the bottom end of the range for a while and so the factors determining base rates would be domestic rather than to do with sterling.

Indeed, despite the coincidence of timing, the motivation behind the last base rate cut was the state of the economy rather than the ERM. The money supply, the slowdown in domestic demand and the prospective fall in inflation were cited by the Treasury as the reasons for easing monetary policy.

From this perspective, there is little doubt that the trend in base rates should continue to be firmly downwards. The narrow money supply (M0) has dropped within target and the latest weekly figures for notes in circulation point to a further decline. At a time of high inflation, this points to a sharp fall in real money balances.

Should we pay any attention to narrow money? In a sophisticated financial economy, who cares about M0? The Treasury, apparently, it is a good indicator of con-

sumer demand and the most up-to-date guide available for gauging the pace of the domestic economy. It has slowed and should continue to do so.

There is now little doubt that the economy is weak. Real GDP probably fell in the third quarter and the overall picture is flat for the second half of this year and the first half of next. The best in store is a modest pick-up in the second half of next year.

Partly because of this, inflation will fall, especially as measured by the headline rate. The first big drop in the annual rate will be in the November index, to about 9% per cent, against the near-11 per cent rate now.

Next year, inflation will continue to decline, with 5% per cent on the cards at mid-year. The underlying rate will come down more slowly, but inflation performance will clearly be improving.

Domestically, the argument for lower base rates will be straightforward. But will sterling allow rates to fall? ERM rules are clear and sterling drifting to the lower end of the permitted range could stop rate cuts, whatever the state of the economy might demand.

The conflict between the domestic and external requirements should not be that acute. Monetary policy is extremely tight and this is being felt by businesses and consumers alike.

To argue that base rates need to stay at 14 per cent for a long period is unrealistic. The foreign exchange markets realise this and sterling's lacklustre performance in the ERM so far reflects the view that the longer-term direction in base rates is clearly down. The value of sterling in large part discounts this trend.

Currency forecasting is a hazardous business and of-

ten the toss of a coin is as accurate as an economist's most diligent efforts. Most forecasters now talk in terms of exchange rate assumptions rather than forecasts.

But to declare the honeymoon formally over is premature. Lower base rates justified by the economic fundamentals should not hit the currency too hard; we still expect base rates to be at 12 per cent by mid-1991.

The slowdown that led to the cut in base rates is affecting government finances as well. The history of recent years is that the level of activity has a more powerful influence on the government's fiscal position than is realised at the time.

A budget-time forecast of a £7 billion fiscal surplus has been left high and dry by the economic slowdown. The chancellor said in the Mansion House speech that the medium-term objective was for a balanced budget. That could be the result this financial year, with a small borrowing requirement next year.

The implication is that there will be a return to gilt issuance early next year. While this funding might initially be in the shorts, it will spread along the yield curve as the funding programme gathers pace.

The key question is how enthusiastic the long-term institutions will be in rebuilding their depleted gilt portfolios. While the borrowing requirement will be tiny by historical and international standards, it will be a drag on the medium area of the market.

It all points to the inversion of the yield curve at the short end of the gilt market lessening, or disappearing altogether. Sterling permitting, of course.

JOHN SHEPHERD
SG Warburg Securities

Operating profits rise at CWS

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

THE Co-operative Wholesale Society, part of the Co-op group, made operating profits of £14.9 million for the six months to end-June, an increase of 6 per cent. Sales rose 9.5 per cent to £1.3 billion.

Leonard Pyke, chairman of CWS, said sales were being tightened after a period when consumer spending had held up well. "In these circumstances CWS performance had been satisfactory and its retail operations continued to develop."

Sir Dennis Landau, the group's chief executive, said the results reflected the CWS of the North Eastern Co-operative Society was the most significant event of the first half, although the North Eastern figures had not been included in the results.

Sir Dennis called for greater co-operation between the 80 societies running Co-op stores in the UK.

1991 SENIOR EXECUTIVE COURSES: WOMEN IN MANAGEMENT SCHOLARSHIP

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MANCHESTER BUSINESS SCHOOL

Mineral water sales soar in Britain

By OUR INDUSTRIAL STAFF

SALES in Britain of mineral water have tripled in the last five years, according to a report today on the rise in consumption of bottled water in the United Kingdom.

The survey by Economidat, the market analyst group, suggests that recent factors behind the growth have been increasing consumer concern over the quality of tap water, and the unusually warm summers.

The report forecasts that the total market for mineral water in the United Kingdom will amount to £297 million this year, up from about £200 million in 1989. Even so, people in Britain still drink much less mineral water per head than most European countries. UK per capita consumption is only 5.5 litres each year. This compares with 79.9 litres per person each year in Italy, 76.3 in Germany, 68.4 in France and 30.1 in America.

Most mineral water drunk in Britain is sparkling. Only 29 per cent of all consumption is still, compared to France, for instance, where still water accounts for four-fifths of all mineral water consumed.

Power Corp in second store deal with Gucci

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

POWER Corporation, the commercial property developer, has made its second deal with Gucci, the Italian leather retailer, through the purchase of a property in Belgravia, London, that will serve as Gucci's flagship store in the capital.

The property, which comprises five retail shops at 17-22 Sloane Street, has been bought from City Site Estates, the property company, for £20.7 million. Two of the five shops will be combined to form the new Gucci store.

Power Corporation already partly owns a Gucci store property in Palm Beach, Florida. This was bought recently in a joint venture with a Florida developer.

Nick Orme, a director at Power Corporation, said the company was taking advantage of weak conditions in the property market.

The purchase in Belgravia is the first in the UK since the arrangement of a £100 million interest-only bank syndicate facility. This type of facility, sometimes referred to as "evergreen", carries only an interest charge until the company decides to repay the original loan.

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quarter, Securities Trust of Scotland, Toshiba Corporation. **Finals:** Benson Group, Govett Strategic Investment Trust, Majedie Investments, Pegasus Group, Amar Textiles, UDO Holdings. **Economic statistics:** New earnings survey part C, energy trends (August).

FRIDAY

Profits at Delyn Packaging, the Welsh supplier of plastic packaging, will be adversely affected by significantly increased interest charges. However, BWZ expects half-year pre-tax profits to climb from £305,000 to £400,000, thanks

Economic statistics: Engineering sales and orders at current and

constant prices (August), new vehicle registrations (September).

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Capitalization	Price last	Ch'ge on	Gross rev	D Y
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[illegible][illegible][illegible]

11	1	1574	000	Charmant Res	51	-3	
12	1	2004	000	Charmant Res	258		
13	1	4745	000	Charmant Res	300		13
14	1	519	000	Charmant Res	1	-2	
15	1	3058	000	Charmant Res	1	-2	
16	1	4015	000	Charmant Storage	150		
17	1	1540	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
18	1	1036	000	Charmant Storage	70		
19	1	1540	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
20	1	5077	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
21	1	5077	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
22	1	4230	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
23	1	1540	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
24	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
25	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
26	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
27	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
28	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
29	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
30	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
31	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
32	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
33	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
34	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
35	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
36	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
37	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
38	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
39	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
40	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
41	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
42	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
43	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
44	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
45	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
46	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
47	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
48	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
49	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
50	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
51	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
52	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
53	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
54	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
55	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
56	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
57	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
58	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
59	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
60	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
61	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
62	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
63	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
64	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
65	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
66	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
67	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
68	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
69	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
70	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
71	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
72	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
73	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
74	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
75	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
76	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
77	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	

7 169 000	4W4-variant	8	-2	
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[illegible]

11	1	1574	000	Charmant Res	51	-3	
12	1	2004	000	Charmant Res	258		
13	1	4745	000	Charmant Res	300		13
14	1	519	000	Charmant Res	1	-2	
15	1	3058	000	Charmant Res	1	-2	
16	1	4015	000	Charmant Storage	150		
17	1	1540	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
18	1	1036	000	Charmant Storage	70		
19	1	1540	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
20	1	5077	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
21	1	5077	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
22	1	4230	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
23	1	1540	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
24	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
25	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
26	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
27	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
28	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
29	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
30	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
31	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
32	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
33	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
34	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
35	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
36	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
37	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
38	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
39	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
40	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
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42	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
43	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
44	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
45	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
46	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
47	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
48	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
49	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
50	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
51	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
52	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
53	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
54	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
55	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
56	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
57	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
58	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
59	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
60	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
61	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
62	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
63	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
64	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
65	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
66	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
67	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
68	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
69	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
70	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
71	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
72	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
73	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
74	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
75	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
76	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	
77	1	3370	000	Charmant Storage	1	-2	

	Company	Friday	Week	Index	%
111	1,574,000 Arcadian Res.	51	-3	.	

73
143
100

GOLD

BULLION:

Bar o

COINS: Per coin (Ex
Britannia: \$383.00-385.00 (£195.00-198.00)
Keweenaw: \$371.00-374.00 (£185.00-187.00)

FROM MANCHESTER
Daily direct to Barcelona &
Madrid.

Trial	Control (n=10)	MCI (n=10)	AD (n=10)
1	85	75	65
2	88	78	68
3	90	80	70
4	92	82	72
5	95	85	75

Initials

[illegible]

IBERIA

WARM TO THE EXPERIENCE.

Mr/Mrs/Miss _____ initials _____

Surname _____

Home Address _____

11

[illegible]

Post Code _____ TIM/2: _____

1

Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money, stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	General Whl	Electricals	
2	THORNEMI (sa)	Electricals	
3	Body Shop	Draperies	
4	Docos	Industrials A-D	
5	Utd Newspapers (sa)	Newspapers	
6	St Ives Co	Paper, Print, Adv	
7	Transport Dev	Transport	
8	TSB (sa)	Bank, Discount	
9	Besser PLC (sa)	Banking	
10	Massey	Industrials L-R	
11	Douglas (RM)	Building, Roads	
12	Berkeley (sa)	Industrials A-D	
13	Amec	Building, Roads	
14	Booker	Food	
15	Cater Allen	Food, Discount	
16	Hazewood Foods	Food	
17	Flu-Rite	Paper, Print, Adv	
18	NPC	Transport	
19	Smiths Ind (sa)	Industrials S-Z	
20	Calsonic	Transport	
21	ENAP	Newspapers	
22	Br Airways (sa)	Transport	
23	TI (sa)	Industrials S-Z	
24	Portals	Industrials L-R	
25	Fin Art Dev	Draperies	
26	Wilson Bowden	Building, Roads	
27	S & U Stores	Draperies	
28	Herring Son	Property	
29	Allied Lee	Property	
30	Orves Mids	Paper, Print, Adv	
31	Nile-Eze	Industrials E-K	
32	Allied Inds	Industrials E-K	
33	Coconut (sa)	Industrials E-K	
34	GKN (sa)	Industrials E-K	
35	Travis Perkins	Building, Roads	
36	First Tech	Electricals	
37	Rugby Group	Building, Roads	
38	R-T Bk (sa)	Bank, Discount	
39	Barlow Rand	Industrials A-D	
40	Boots (sa)	Industrials A-D	
41	Aun Sec	Electricals	
42	Styphos	Industrials A-D	
43	Hevywood Williams	Building, Roads	
44	Muti	Electricals	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

The winner of the weekend Portfolio Platinum prize of £8,000 is Mrs Ruth Bevan of Brockwre, Chesham, Gwent.

BRITISH FUNDS

Stock	Price	Chg	Div	Gross
£	Stock	Price	Div	Gross

SHORTS (Under Five Years)	Price	Chg	Div	Gross
1990 Gas 2 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 3 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 4 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 5 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 6 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 7 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 8 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 9 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 10 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 11 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 12 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 13 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 14 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 15 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 16 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 17 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 18 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 19 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 20 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 21 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 22 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 23 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 24 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 25 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 26 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 27 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 28 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 29 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 30 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 31 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 32 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 33 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 34 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 35 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 36 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 37 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 38 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 39 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 40 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 41 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 42 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 43 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 44 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 45 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 46 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 47 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 48 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 49 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 50 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 51 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 52 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 53 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 54 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 55 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 56 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 57 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 58 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 59 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 60 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 61 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 62 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 63 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 64 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 65 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 66 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 67 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 68 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 69 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 70 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 71 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 72 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 73 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 74 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 75 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 76 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 77 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 78 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 79 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 80 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 81 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 82 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 83 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 84 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 85 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 86 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 87 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 88 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 89 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 90 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 91 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 92 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 93 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 94 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 95 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 96 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 97 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 98 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 99 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0
1990 Gas 100 1/2 1990	89	0	0	0

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

2006	Gas	10 1/2	1995	89	0	0	0
2206	Gas	10 1/2	1995	89	0	0	0
306	Tram	10 1/2	1995	89	0	0	0
306	Tram	10 1/2	1995	89	0	0	0
1010	Tram	10 1/2	1995	89	0	0	0
1010	Tram	10 1/2	1995	89	0	0	0
8336	Tram	14 1/2	1995	106	0	0	0
8336	Tram	14 1/2	1995	106	0	0	0
7125	Tram	14 1/2	1997	106	0	0	0
7125	Tram	14 1/2	1997	106	0	0	0
1211	Tram	12 1/2	1997	106	0	0	0
1211	Tram	12 1/2	1997	106	0	0	0
71	Tram	14 1/2	1995-96	89	0	0	0
71	Tram	14 1/2	1995-96	89	0	0	0
4867	Tram	12 1/2	1996	106	0	0	0
1106	Tram	10 1/2	1996	119	0	0	0
1106	Tram	10 1/2	1996	119	0	0	0
1022	Tram	10 1/2	1999	211	0	0	0
1022	Tram	10 1/2	1999	211	0	0	0
2901	Tram	12 1/2	1999	103	0	0	0
2901	Tram	12 1/2	1999	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2000	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2000	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
50	Tram	10 1/2	2001	103	0	0	0
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the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are under 15 years of age is expected to increase from 1.1 billion to 1.5 billion. The number of people aged 65 and over is expected to increase from 250 million to 450 million. The number of people aged 15 and over is expected to increase from 3.5 billion to 4.5 billion. The number of people aged 15 and over is expected to increase from 3.5 billion to 4.5 billion. The number of people aged 15 and over is expected to increase from 3.5 billion to 4.5 billion.

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Far East lends an ear to western music

Mark Wigglesworth kept the rehearsal of *Prelude à l'après-midi d'un faune* going, but called out over the string sound: "Less of the Alfred Hitchcock - we don't want Debussy to sound like *The Birds*."

The instruction from this young up-and-coming English conductor would have drawn a smile, and a musical adjustment, from most western orchestral players, but in the heart of Kuala Lumpur it was too obscure an allusion, at least for half of the members of the World Youth Music Camp. Evidently, Sir Alfred is not a favourite with the classical musicians of Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia or Fiji. Yet the other half - students from the UK, the United States, Australia, The Netherlands and Germany - got the joke.

This was one example of the problems facing the first World Youth Music Camp, an ambitious project undertaken by Malaysia as part of its millennium "Visit Malaysia 1990". Held last month, nearly 100 musicians, aged between 12 and 28, were invited to Malaysia's capital to play for two weeks. The stated purpose was to highlight classical music in Southeast Asia. Mr Wigglesworth drew the best from what was, at times, a difficult but invigorating experience, for however often music is described as an international language, cultural differences were not the only problems.

One of the most important was the varying playing standards, both among the western participants and those from Asia. They varied from students who had just left the Royal Academy of Music, or the Royal Conservatory of Music in The Hague, to an enthusiastic 12-year-old viola player from Borneo.

With many hours of rehearsal, daily tutorials for separate sections of the orchestra, private lessons and the stimulus of chamber music, the standard crept up. "I knew I had to make sure I didn't bore the good players or demoralise the weaker players," Mr Wigglesworth says. "My aim was to reach the level of a good county youth orchestra."

But there was much more behind the event than a simple two-week youth music camp with a grand name. Malaysia, like many of its neighbouring countries, is trying to establish a music

educational structure incorporating a strong element of western classical music to match its growing economic status in the region.

"Music, especially western classical music, has not been a real priority for us," says Abdul Fatah Karim, the director of music at the ministry of culture and tourism. "But now, as we have become more prosperous, we want to feel less isolated internationally."

The musical educational superstructure in Malaysia is uneven. There are about 30,000 candidates a year for music grade exams offered by the Associated Board, Trinity College and Guildhall School of Music and Drama, but they are mainly keyboard players. Fewer than 1,000 exams involve orchestra instruments.

The country's only symphony orchestra is made up of a group of students taught by a leading private teacher in Penang. Malaysian schools offer music education at primary level for percussion instruments, recorders, and a mixture of Malaysian and western music, but no lessons at secondary school. There is a considerable amount of private teaching, but its availability is tied to its high costs. The majority of the country's inhabitants are Malays, but the dominant economic force is the Chinese who are the most keen to see their children receive a music education. The third section of the population, the Indians, represent a very small percentage of those receiving music education.

'I knew I had to make sure I didn't bore the good players or demoralise the weaker players'

There is no music college or music academy in this sense. Malaysia is trailing well behind its neighbours. Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines have symphony orchestras and either public or private facilities for further music education.

The final concert given by the players of the first World Youth Music Camp, transformed for the evening into the World Youth Symphony Orchestra, was heard by as many dignitaries and government ministers as could be persuaded to attend.

Mr Karim says: "We hope it will start the ball rolling so that we can get our symphony orchestra going, and that the government will make an undertaking to open a music college of some kind."

NICOLAS SOAMES

Personal university challenge

IAN CRAWFORD

College life can be tough for students with handicaps. But some are finding a welcome on the mat.

Liz Gill reports

Andre Cockburn, an outstanding maths pupil, was faced with a decision on his university options. With three excellent A-levels by the age of 15 he seemed an obvious candidate for Oxbridge. A visit to Oxford convinced him that his path lay literally elsewhere.

"All those old, narrow corridors and winding staircases might be charming," he says, "but for me they're hopeless." Mr Cockburn has cerebral palsy, the result of oxygen deprivation at birth. It means he cannot walk without crutches, cannot write, and speaks slowly and often indistinctly. This summer he took a first in pure mathematics at Nottingham University and now, a few weeks after his twentieth birthday, he is beginning research for his PhD in quantum probability.

The National Bureau for Students with Disabilities (Skill) estimates that between 500 and 600 disabled students went up to British universities last year. Numbers have been increasing in the past few years, due both to higher expectations among disabled people and greater awareness of their needs generally, and they are expected to rise even further with the introduction of a new system of grants.

The old disability allowance of £765 a year has been increased to £1,000, and any handicapped student who is eligible for the ordinary local education authority student grant may now also be able to claim £4,000 a year for non-medical assistance, such as note taking or interpreting, plus a one-off payment of £3,000 for special equipment.

"This really is a great leap forward," says Michelle Thew, the assistant director of Skill. "Students often have very complex needs and this gives them a much wider choice."

Many universities have made significant progress in catering for these needs. Reading, Sussex and Southampton universities, for example, have specially adapted accommodation; Durham has support services for deaf students;



Home from home: Andre Cockburn studies for his PhD at Nottingham University: "perhaps it was the beer that made me feel at home"

Loughborough for blind ones; Leeds offers a Braille service, and Lancaster employs a co-ordinator to aid its disabled students.

For Mr Cockburn, Nottingham's attractions included the fact that everything was on one campus, there were enough ramps and lifts and it provided a minibus with a tail lift to transport handicapped students to lectures and to outside social events. "In theory, there is room for three wheelchairs and another seat, but one night, when we were going to a nightclub, we crammed in a dozen students as well," he says.

Nottingham also operates a system of Community Service Volunteers, young people who live in the residences and help disabled students. "Once in a while it's OK to ask another student to get you something, but you can't be asking every time you need a cup of coffee," Mr Cockburn says.

Last year his volunteer was Alison Danbury, who has now gone to Bradford to study social work. Her tasks included shopping, going to the library, form

filling, tidying up and driving the minibus. "It was brilliant," she says. "I got a taste of university life without having to do the work. It did wonders for my patience too. You learn a lot. I think it's seeing the amount of effort someone like Andre has to put into doing something you do yourself without thinking."

Mary Foley, Nottingham's senior assistant registrar and co-ordinator for the 20 or so disabled students on campus, believes universities gain from their presence. "It must be a good thing for other students, particularly those going on to be doctors or social workers, to meet the disabled as equals, rather than as patients or clients. It also puts one's own problems into perspective."

Mr Cockburn says he rarely experienced any of the awkwardness or embarrassment people often show towards the handicapped. "I get that outside a lot, but hardly ever at university. I was worried before I came, but from the moment I arrived it seemed all right. I went for a talk with the

staff and then I went to the bar with the other first years. Perhaps it was the beer that made me feel at home."

Nottingham was also prepared to go to some lengths to meet his needs: free photocopying of another student's lecture notes, installing a terminal in his room linked to the university's main computer and, because of the slow rate at which he types, allowing him extra time for exams.

Each university makes its own policy on accommodating the disabled, but Dr Ted Nield of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals Information Unit, says: "We try to ensure that the disabled student can follow the course of his or her choice somewhere. Most are making an effort, but it's not possible to modify every building, not just because of the cost, but because some of them are listed."

Offset against problems of access must be the advances in technology which can help dis-

abled students. Ms Thew cites, as prime examples, word processors, audio and video equipment and computers with voice synthesizers which can "read" to students. She cannot envisage any physical handicap that could not be accommodated by the right combination of personal assistance and technology.

Her advice to those contemplating university entrance is to organise the support structures well in advance. "Go and see the place. You might be able to get your wheelchair into the library, but can you get it into the refectory as well?"

Ultimately, much depends on the individual's personality. Although Mr Cockburn was too severely handicapped to go to a normal school, his family were always determined he should enjoy as full a life as possible - from joining the Cubs to going on a sailing holiday with them. "If you have the chance of university, go for it," Mr Cockburn says. "Have a good time. Don't let your disability get in the way."

EDUCATIONAL

POSTS

GRESHAM'S SCHOOL
HOLT, NORFOLK

APPOINTMENT OF HEAD

The Board of Governors of Gresham's School, Holt, Norfolk, following the appointment of Hugh Wright as Chief Master of King Edward's School, Birmingham, invites applications for the Post of HEAD which will fall vacant at the end of the Summer Term 1991.

Particulars can be obtained from the Clerk to the Governors, Fishmongers' Hall, London Bridge, London EC4R 9EL.

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Further particulars may be obtained from the Personnel Officer, GPO Store Hqs, Durham DH1 1SH (Tel. 071 374 4887), to whom applications (three copies), including a full cv and the names and addresses of three referees, should be sent not later than 30 November 1990. Please quote reference 570.

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Glaxo Group Research

EDUCATION

A visit by one of Her Majesty's Inspectors can be a daunting and enlightening experience. David Tytler listened in

When the school inspector calls



Blind man's buff: sixth-form pupils, taking A-level general studies, put a lesson in trust to the test by taking blindfolded fellow classmates around the school and guiding them only by word of mouth

The leading player in this story insists on remaining unnamed and unphotographed. He is one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools, an HMI, who believes in collective responsibility and not the cult of the personality. He and his 484 colleagues can, however, critically affect schools with their reports on how they are functioning.

For many parents, the reports are the only impartial view of their child's school, warts and all, but they rarely see them, or even hear about them unless they are unusually glowing. Schools are often not anxious to make them easily available, but copies will be provided on request and are always sent to the local library.

Earlier this month *The Times* accompanied one senior inspector on his follow-up visit to Queen Mary's Grammar School at Watlington, near Birmingham, where he had led a team of five inspectors in April last year on a four-day inspection. Queen Mary's is a voluntary aided grammar school of 655 boys - plus eight girls in the sixth form - run by an educational foundation which also controls a girls' grammar school and a fee-paying preparatory school.

Keith Howard, the Cambridge-educated headmaster, admitted to feeling "trepidation" when he was given four weeks' notice that his school had been chosen at random for inspection. The school, however, emerged with flying colours. "Queen Mary's" said the inspectors' report, "is a strong institution which works hard and effectively to achieve its aims... its public examination results reach a very high standard and the broad range of extra-curricular activities helps to bring success in the social development of its pupils."

Even in a school of this quality, however, the inspectors can find fault: "The pupils in the intake year are bright, enthusiastic and quick-witted. It may be a reflection of the system as much as the school that those in the sixth form are able and successful but show rather less enthusiasm and less flair than might be expected. There is little original academic work undertaken by pupils apart from that intended for examination."

Fiercely proud of his school, Mr Howard welcomed the report, but could not let this last point lie. "It is a question of judgment and balance between discipline and freedom. If you give the boys too much licence the whole thing falls apart. They come here for the most part because they want to go on to university, and to get the places they want they have to pass examinations. We have to see that they can do it while helping them to develop as individuals."

The inspectors also want high standards and good examination results, which is certainly what they get at Queen Mary's, but they questioned some of the methods. Nearly all the boys go into the sixth form, and at A-levels this year 104 boys received A grades, 88 B and 59 C, with 100 gaining D and E grades, giving an overall pass rate of 91.4 per cent.

On meeting the senior inspector since the report's publication, Mr Howard challenged him to explain the phrase "a reflection of the system". "Whose system, ours or the university entrance system?" he asked. "Well it could mean the system generally," said the inspector. "Which is it?" asked the head. "It is ambiguous." In true HMI style the inspector smiled: "Let's leave it that way."

Mr Howard, who lives in a house attached to the school, sets great store by the huge number of out-of-school activities which are a break from day-to-day school, and regrets that the inspectors were not able to see more of them. The inspector understood the

argument, but said: "Our brief is to report what we see. If we don't see it we can't report it."

He made allowances, however, for the assembly on the morning of his visit, when he thought the master leading it should have involved the boys more. "I know," he said, "from what I have seen before that the boys do take

leading role in running the school. Every morning, Matthew Holden, the captain of school, and two senior prefects report to the head and his two deputies on the state of the school during the previous day. On this morning they reported that all doors were closed, lights off, there was some damage in the lavatories and confusion over the number of boys taking packed lunch, one junior boy had been less than co-operative, the head said he would talk to him later in the day.

All this high discipline, with some "irksome" rules, was too much for the inspectors, who reported: "They are generally directed to worthy ends, but there is a risk that rules for control may unduly restrict the development of self-discipline and diminish self-motivation. In view of the pupils' demeanour the school might consider some relaxation of control, especially for the older pupils."

The captain of school and his senior prefects did not agree. "I don't think we would want any more freedom than we have, as

"The inspectors made us look at ourselves critically and analytically"

there would be some who would definitely take advantage," Matthew said. Tim Hannam, one of two vice-captains, agreed; and he accepted, as they all did, the need for school uniform, even for the sixth form: "It is a good idea because there would be a lot of competition as to how people dressed and it would be unfair on the low income families."

The inspector was unmoved, and left the school still believing discipline could be relaxed. A former secondary head himself, he and his team had done their homework on the school before arriving for the original inspection, one of 113 that took place in 1988/89. Individual inspectors then sat in on about 140 lessons at Queen Mary's, reporting that 5 per cent were excellent, 35 per cent good, with 90 per cent being satisfactory or better.

"In most of the 10 per cent of lessons rated less than satisfactory," said the inspectors, "the work was insufficiently demanding or the teaching and learning relied too heavily on a lecturing style which removed much of the thinking from the pupils."

One test is to gauge the amount of interest shown by pupils. If the teacher asks a question and only one hand goes up, something is wrong. In a French lesson, which the inspector thought could have been improved with displays on the walls or some other visual aids, all the hands went up for every question.

In a GCSE geography lesson, in which pupils had to judge the best way to sell a new town to new industry, most of the teacher's work had been done before the lesson. His classroom role was to explain the task and be on hand to assist. The inspector approved. Lessons which go into minute detail rather than explaining simple concepts get few points.

When an inspector is unduly concerned about a particular lesson he talks to the teacher immediately, asking whether he had considered any changes to his teaching style. "It is often just a matter of fine tuning," the inspector said.

At the end of the inspection a verbal report is given to the headmaster, which is then followed with a briefing for senior staff and governors before the final report is published. "It seemed to me," Mr Howard said, "that the views hardened from meeting to meeting, and then in the report itself."

He had few real complaints: "The inspectors made us look at ourselves and our teaching styles critically and analytically. The process had started anyway, but it did give us a focus."

NOTICEBOARD

A show of annoyance

THE usually unflappable Philip Halsey, one of the government's senior education advisors, made his annoyance with education department officials clear at the press conference called to announce the compulsory tests for seven-year-olds.

The new arrangements were to be announced by Mr Halsey, chairman and chief executive of the Schools' Examination and Assessment Council (Seac), but John MacGregor decided he should oversee the launch, leaving Mr Halsey to explain details of the tests afterwards, with the aid of examples on an overhead projector. But the exchanges in the House of Commons delayed the launch conference, squeezing Mr Halsey into a few minutes.

The test examples remained in his briefcase, as the education department failed to provide him with a projector, and he refused to part with the slides for photocopying and distribution.

Hi-tech students

STUDENTS will need access to a personal computer to win a place on the London Business School's MBA courses. It will be the first time in Britain that full-time courses have carried such a requirement. Although a common condition of entry at American business schools, personal computers have previously been compulsory only for part-time MBA students at Cranfield School of Management in Bedfordshire. The LBS has decided on a universal requirement because it regards computer competence as an essential element in management training.

In the know?

MICHAEL Thompson, vice-chancellor of Birmingham University, seems to have been credited with psychic powers by the university's official journal, *The Bulletin*. A headline probably not cleared with the English department declared last week: "Vice-chancellor reviews 'the year ahead'". His message turned out to be disappointingly pragmatic and apparently devoid of prior knowledge of events.

At University College, London, however, *UCL News* sails much closer to the wind. A note appended to an article by Professor Geoffrey Alderman taking issue with views expressed in a previous issue by Derek Roberts, the college provost, read: "The editor showed this letter to the

provost and he replied: 'I do not propose to waste my time with Alderman. Nor do I think that he should have any right of publication in *UCL News*'."

Undercover stuff

THE alternative guide to life at Warwick University has upset the headmaster of the Prince of Wales's old school, Gordonstoun. Mark Pyper, head of the school in Moray, Scotland, returned his school's copies of the 44-page guide to the underside of student life, on the grounds that it was "distasteful". It includes a chapter headed "Sex, Sex, Sex", offering a "glimpse at the stained sheets of Warwick, gays and heterosexuals alike". Jane Bardsley, the student union general secretary, said: "Warwick students are a clean-living bunch."

Liddell memorial

EDINBURGH University has started a fund to erect a memorial in China to Eric Liddell, one of its more famous alumni since his life was chronicled in the film *Chariots of Fire*. A stone carved from Mull granite has been commissioned after discussions with the Liddell family, and should be in position near the spot where he died by next spring. The university already has an Eric Liddell centre in its physical education department, funded from the proceeds of a Scottish premiere of the film. It expects the cost of the memorial to be around £3,000.

Don't all rush

IN AN attempt to encourage more members of the public to listen to its committee and council meetings, the south London borough of Southwark is offering to pay expenses to anyone who has to hire a baby sitter or pay for help with an elderly relative in order to attend the meetings. It is a policy that is costing the council practically nothing at all.

Slip of the plume

LAST week's visit to France by Jack Straw, the shadow education secretary, provoked an outbreak of *franglais* from the French embassy. Monsieur Straw, as the official programme for the visit described him, had a private dinner on Tuesday 16 October before returning to London the next day at 20h30. The education department has no plans to follow his example in recording the visit of Alan Howarth, the higher education minister, to Hungary.

JOHN O'LEARY

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